SECRET
COMICS
JAPAN

Junko Mizuno

The Life of Momongo

First appeared in *Comic Cue* 1998

Fittingly, perhaps, Junko Mizuno lands her debut as a manga artist in a rock magazine. // She style tends toward extremes: she draws cute *shôjo* (girls) cute. Incensing adults: who that happen to be carrying tonic or playing cute corpses. Her her from tends to be young people with from tastes about of that time, and maybe it's for the causes her work elicits raised eyebrows and comments like, "What *is* this?" from so-called normal adults who glance at her manga.

Mizuno's unique, instantly identifiable style actually derives in part from the golden age of *shôjo* manga of the '70s and Hideo Azuma's Lolita-type drawings. Also, perhaps because it's one of her older works, *Momongo* retains several traditional tools. The panel layout and direction, for example, follow orthodox narrative methods. However, the combination of visual elements breaks from traditional manga and, for that matter, any older type of manga and even below it. It's this radical content of reconceived/reconceptualized styles from the past that confront younger manga readers.

Like the characters she draws, Mizuno herself is petite and cute. A fan of Russ Meyer and the Spice Girls, she sometimes is seen shuttered with toys and figures. In recent years, Mizuno has received great acclaim in manga circles, the only for her singular way of juxtaposing the cute and the grotesque, but for her sharp sensibility and beautiful color work.

I hate the stiff and dull sensibilities of "adults" that people spot all on the Mizuno's as a tad, something wallowing in sad tears, or hope in only underground. I'll even go so far as to say that you can judge someone's taste by whether or not they like Mizuno's work. When Izumi Evers and I went to and Mizuno other Izumi in Tokyo, we learned that an artist from Los Angeles who *adored* her work and came here to see Mizuno and to discuss marketing products based on her characters. They that had a good time discussing common interests. It's a shame that the intuitive and to come true from Los Angeles. It's a telling sign that Mizuno's work as an artist should be most properly recognized in Japan.

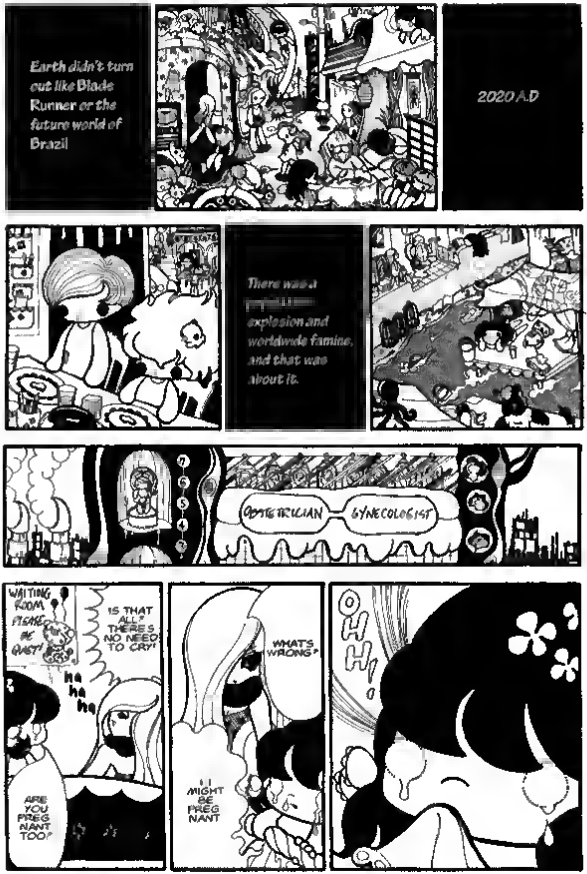
A message from Junko Mizuno: "I don't speak English myself, so it's a strange feeling to think that the characters I draw speak English. I've been greatly influenced by American comics, toys, and other things, so I'm very interested in finding out what Americans think of my work. I hope you enjoy it!"

Momoko Aoyagi, Mizuno's collaborator as Momongo, is a contemporary visual artist and leader of the art group Technomi. Her work has been exhibited with that of manga artist Takashi Nemoto, freelance vocalist Yamaoka Eye, Makoto Aida (see *Momoi Akaoka*), and others.

モモンゴの一生

THE LIFE OF MOMONGO

story by Norimizu Ameya art by Junko Mizuno


Earth didn't turn out like Blade Runner or the future world of Brazil
2020 A.D
There was a [redacted] explosion and worldwide famine, and that was about it.
OBSTETRICIAN
GYNECOLOGIST
WAITING ROOM
IS THAT ALL? THERE'S NO NEED TO CRY!
ha ha ha
ARE YOU PREGNANT TOO?
I MIGHT BE PREGNANT
WHAT'S WRONG?
OHH!

SO THEN YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE HUMAN INSECTS
EEGGS!
SO I CAME TO CHECK ON THEM
I HEARD THE EGGS I LAID WERE ABOUT TO HATCH
THESE WERE MY PARTNERS
I TRIED FOUR DIFFERENT ORGANISMS THIS TIME
And what is a human insect ?
They look like humans but are actually insects. They can mate with any organism and incorporate its genes
AND THEN HE'D ASK ME "HOW'S IT FEEL"
AND WITH THE HUMAN IT WAS TOO LONG AND HAIRY TOO TOUCHY FEELY THE WORST!
WITH THE RABBIT HE MOVED HIS HAUNCHES TOO FAST
WITH THE FISH HE JUST DRIBBLED ON ME
HOW DULL
GEEZ WITH THE FROG
THE CROAKING GOT REALLY ANNOYING
HA HA THAT'S MY SECRET
Ms Fujimoto, your eggs are ready to hatch
FUJIMOTO RESTAURANT MANAGER AYAKO FUJIMOTO
SEE?
IN THIS AGE OF FAMINE!? HOW CAN YOU AFFORD IT?
WELL, I RUN A RESTAURANT
THOSE CLOTHES LOOK EXPENSIVE ARE YOU RICH?

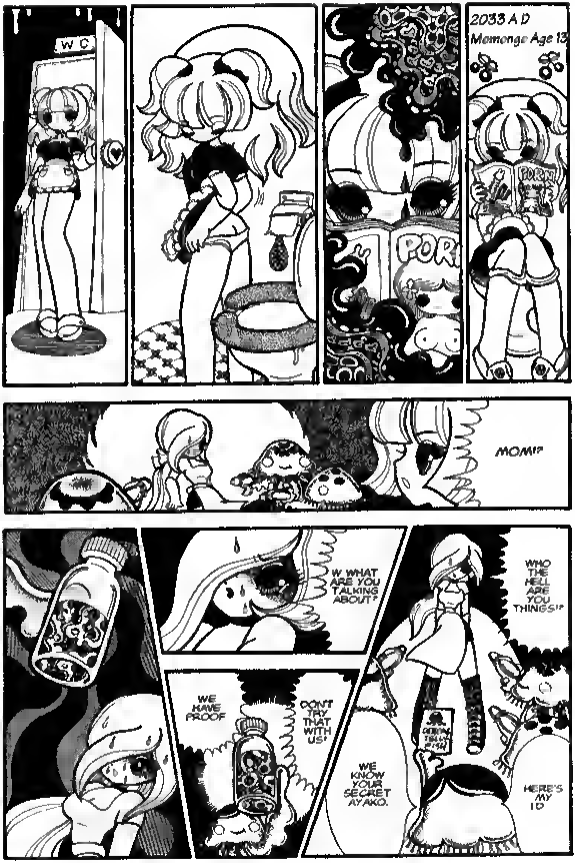
R-BUT
NO GOOD...
IT'S UGLY...
I'LL NAME HIM "BAD FOOD"
HMM... DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS ONE.
FIRST ONE!
SASHIMI
NO GOOD
NEXT ONE!
THIS ONE'S GOT SCALES
OH FORGET IT...
TO MY DISCRIMINATING EYE THIS LEVEL OF CUTENESS AMOUNTS TO NOTHING
NO GOOD THOUGH
NEXT ONE!
THIS ONE'S CUTE BEING A RABBIT AND ALL
IN THESE TIMES OF FAMINE WE'RE SUPPOSED TO EAT OURS IF WE DON'T LIKE THEM!!
WHAT? ARE YOU CRAZY?
LAST ONE!
PLEASE DON'T EAT IT PLEASE

WHAT WILL YOU NAME IT?
ALL RIGHT THEN!
SHE'S CUTE!!
MO-MON-GO!
MO-MON-GO!
PLEASE, PLEASE!!
AHEM! MAY I INFORM YOU
SO I AM GOING TO NAME HER AFTER MY WISH.
I REALLY WANTED TO HAVE HER IN MY COURSE WITH A PTERO-MYSMO-MONESA, A FLYING SQUIRREL
YES?
HEY YOU!!
AND AS WE NOW ENTER THE 21ST CENTURY
THAT NAMES REFLECT THE CULTURAL AESTHETICS OF A CERTAIN AGE FOR EXAMPLE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SHOWA PERIOD, THERE WAS UME HATSUKO MISAO. AFTER THE WAR YOSHIKO KAZUKO MICHIKO, AND AT THE END OF THE SHOWA ERA, MINAKO SHOKO YUKIKO AND IN THE HEISEI ERA WE HAVE YUKA, YURI, MIKI...
I AM SO FULL
BA-BAH!
NO GOOD!

2023 A.D
Mamenge Age 3
2021 A.D
Mamenge Age 1
HEY, IT'S THE GOURMET FOOD VAN!!
GOURMET
AHHH

NO, IT'S MINE!
IT'S MINE!
LACE!! SHE'S WEARING LACE!
2025 A.D.
Mamongo Age 5
I'M HUMAN INSECT MY NAME'S MOMONGO!
WOW ARE YOU NAKED? YOU'RE WEIRD
UHM... YOU TASTE HORRIBLE!
MY CLOTHES GOT STOLEN.
YOU'RE NOT HUMAN, ARE YOU?
AIEEE!

NOW YOU DON'T LOOK SO STRANGE
MY NAME'S KYUKYU MY MOTHER WAS A VAMPIRE BAT
2030 A.D
Memongo Age 10
MAYBE IN HERE?
ISN'T THIS A RESTAURANT?
I THOUGHT THERE'D BE FOOD HERE...
EEYAA!
A BURGLAR... TSK...


W C
2033 A D
Mamonge Age 13
PORN
MOM!?
W. WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU THINGS!?
WE HAVE PROOF
DON'T TRY THAT WITH US!
WE KNOW YOUR SECRET AY AKO.
HERE'S MY ID

HOW ABOUT IT?
THEN TEACH ME HOW YOU MANUFACTURE THIS DRUG YOU HAND OVER YOUR BUSINESS TO ME THEN I'LL LET YOU GO
I FIGURED AS MUCH.
PLEASE LET ME GO!
I DON'T WANT TO GO TO JAIL!
I SEE I SEE
THEN TURN THE SWITCH.
IN HERE
YOU PUT THIS...
LEAVE ALL YOUR VALUABLES BEHIND
EVERY ONE OUT

OH YES!
WATCH THIS.
TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT TO EAT
STEAK!
AN OMELET!
FRIED SHRIMP
HEY, WHAT'S THE SECRET SIR?
THIS IS A HALLUCINATORY DRUG.
TASTE GOOD? HA HA HA!
MUCH
MUCH
THOSE BASTARDS!
GODDAMN THEM!

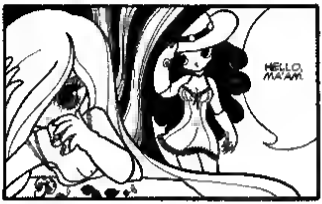
NO, THERE LOSERS. YOU HAVE TO CHOOSE SOME THING STRONGER.
WHAT SHOULD I DO? SHOULD I DO IT WITH A HUMAN LIKE MOM?
WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE STRONGEST THING?
YOU'RE IN HEAT.
I KNOW. I KNOW.
PORN
HEAT?
YOU MEAN I WANT TO HAVE INTERCOURSE?
LATELY I'VE BEEN FEELING STRANGE
KYU KYU...
THEY CAN'T FEED THEMSELVES WITH A FAMINE LIKE THIS GOING ON!
YOU REALLY ARE STUPID! ELEPHANTS ARE CLOSER TO EXTINCTION THAN HUMANS ARE.
AN ELEPHANT?
THEN MAYBE...
I MEAN. THE STRONGEST THING ON THE PLANET?
ARE YOU STUPID?
A STAG BEETLE?
HMM. I GUESS...
YOU SHOULD ASK THE EARWIG IT KNOWS EVERY THING ABOUT ANIMALS.
THEN WHAT SHOULD I DO?

I'm in heat and was wondering who I should have intercourse with.
Mr. My name is Mongo
Hello there. I'm Kyukyu! I bite
Ahehheh hah
Good Good
Then a jellyfish might be good
A strong organism, I see...
Are jellyfish that strong?!
But I don't know what I should look for.
I want to do it with some strong thing
How very nice!
So you're in heat now nice!
But...
But jellyfish are so squishy
That's how they survive. Nothing could outsurvive them
I'll tell you why. When jellyfish run out of food they shrink in size to adjust. Amazing really
Yes, they are
More than beetles and elephants?
Much, much stronger.

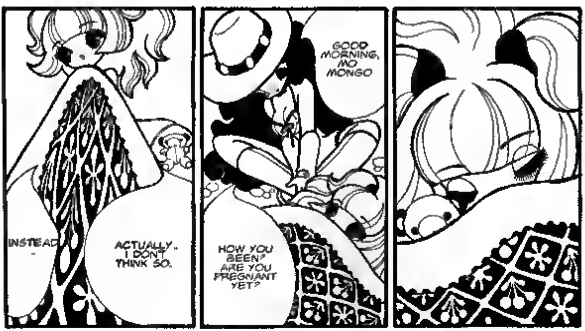
FUCKER!
AIEEE!
INTERCOURSE IS SO NICE!
...WITH ME WITH THIS EAR WIG
THEN YOU MIGHT WANT TO DO IT...
ALL RIGHT THEN! I'M GOING TO DO IT WITH A JELLYFISH.
THAT TASTED TERRIBLE!

I'LL GUESS I'LL JUST WING IT...
BUT HOW DO YOU HAVE INTERCOURSE?
GAAA!
MR JELLY FISH!

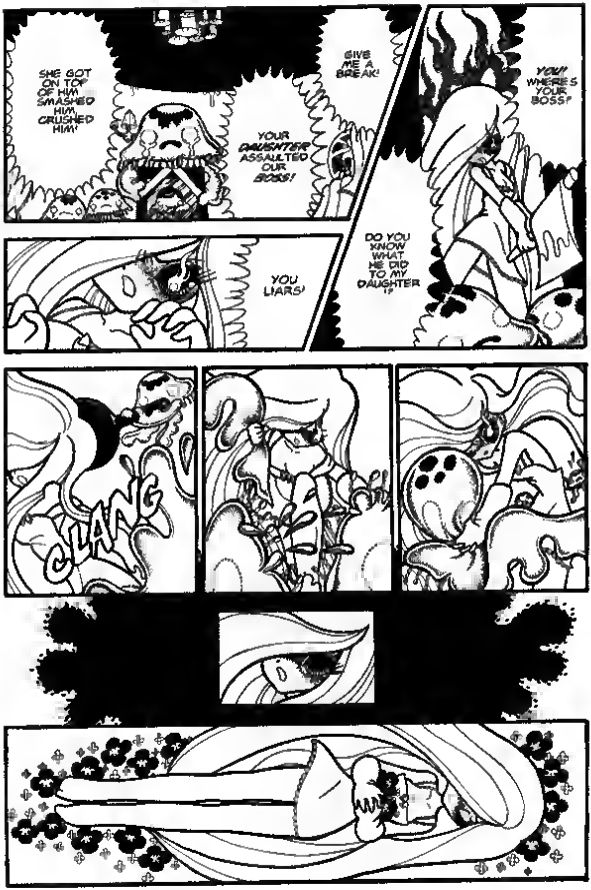
YOU'RE LUCKY ALL YOU NEED IS BLOOD
I'M STARVING


HELLO, MA'AM.

..IF I SUCK SOMEONE SICK THEN I'M FINISHED
NOT AT ALL! THERE'S BEEN A DISEASE GOING AROUND..


INSTEAD..
ACTUALLY.. I DON'T THINK SO.
HOW YOU BEEN? ARE YOU PREGNANT YET?
GOOD MORNING, MO MONGO

IT LOOKS LIKE I'VE BECOME A JELLY-FISH
I'LL KILL HIM!!
I ALREADY DID IT MYSELF.
NO, MOM!
MOM, LET ME TELL YOU
WHAT?! THAT DAMN JELLYFISH ATTACKED YOU!?
B-BUT HOW-
AGGHHH! WHAT THE HELL!?

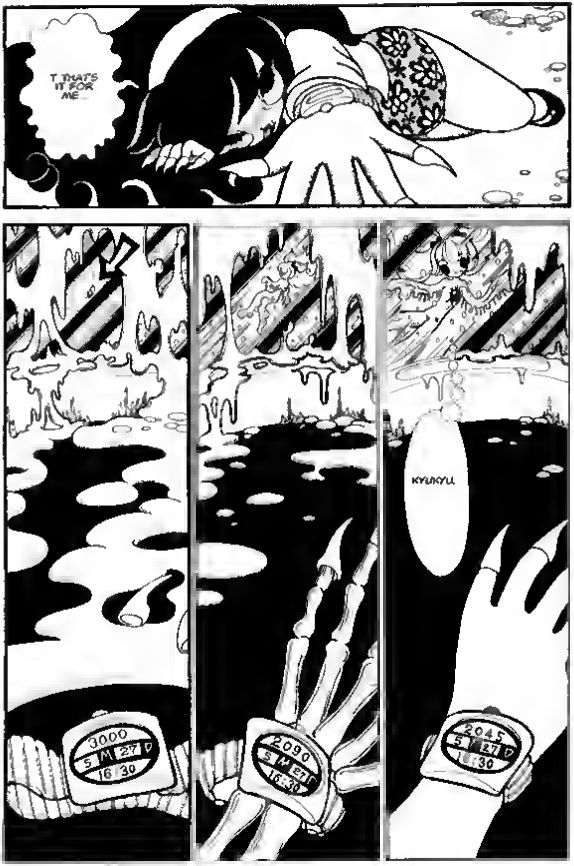

SHE GOT ON TOP OF HIM SMASHED HIM CRUSHED HIM!
YOUR DAUGHTER ASSAULTED OUR BOSS!
GIVE ME A BREAK!
YOU! WHERE'S YOUR BOSS?
YOU LIARS!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT HE DID TO MY DAUGHTER !?
CLANG

WHAT A TRAGEDY!!
SOB SOB
MOMONGO, YOU'VE SHRUNK A LOT
IT'S BECAUSE I HAVEN'T BEEN EATING MUCH LATELY
KYU KYU...
I WANT TO BE IMMERSED IN SEA WATER. CAN YOU TAKE ME THERE?
ARE YOU FEELING WELL?
YOU'VE BEEN OUT OF IT

COULD YOU LET HER IN THE AQUARIUM?
I'M SORRY
THE SEA AROUND HERE IS TOO POLLUTED
I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE AQUARIUM. YOU CAN REST THERE
YES, BUT WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO FEED HER.
IF THAT'S OKAY YOU CAN COME IN
I'LL VISIT YOU SOMETIMES.
SEE YOU SOON.
OKAY

I feel like I'm getting smaller by the day...
I don't seem to be dying. I don't have the will to do anything... but it feels nice.
Just floating here
MOMONGO, HOWYPE YOU DOING?

HEY, THERE'S A RARE FAT ONE OVER THERE.
THE FAMINE'S WORSE NOW
THERE'S NO NUTRITION LEFT IN ANYONE'S BLOOD LOOK HOW THIN I'VE GOTTEN...
YOU'RE MINE!
SICK!
THIS ONE'S...
OH NO!!


T-THAT'S IT FOR ME...
3000
5 M 27 P
16 30
2090
5 M 27 P
16 30
KYUNGYU
2045
5 M 27 P
16 30

No one knows how many more years Momonga lived.

End

Hironori Kikuchi

Gedatsu Man

Selected by *Gedatsu Man* (Seinendo, 1993)

Hironori Kikuchi debuted in 1986 in *Garo* with the short manga *Fruits*. He was born in 1965 – the same year as me – so he's a bit old for your typical up and coming new manga artist. At the time he submitted *Fruits* to *Garo*, I was a part of the editorial department there. To be honest, I thought *Fruits* was really crazy and that the person who drew it might be dangerous.

Fruits is about a bunch of guys in striped prisoner suits who fervently dance around with ecstatic expressions on their faces. There's absolutely no storyline. That's not much to read, but I recall my colleagues and I were intrigued by the memory and the uproariousness of the characters (although all of them had the same faces and wore the same clothes). Most of all, we were impressed with the passion and power of his linework.

Later on, he showed us the new manga he had done. I'm sure he had his reasons, but upon the work contained a dangerous atmosphere which provided an interesting contrast to skillfully drawn backgrounds and characters which at cursory glance seem cute. At some point I started calling his manga "a drug you need". This rudimentarily expect might reflect the influence of Tsutomu Kamegawa (a manga artist whose crazy series *Mitsuami Mirenai*) was serialized in a major *Shônen* (boys') magazine).

Gedatsu Man could be the height of foolishness or Kikuchi's oeuvre. It was first serialized in *Garo* beginning with the February 1990 issue. Being serialized doesn't necessarily mean that it had a cohesive theme and characters. Rather from the beginning, it was a manga where "you can't tell what the hell is going on." I'm not being critical of him when I say he started off. This manga was best expressed in this manner. That's why I guarantee you won't be able to make sense of the English translation. Don't worry, that's the way it reads in Japanese too.

Kikuchi himself is a very normal person who's a proper sarcerer, and like myself a fan of '70s and '80s hard rock. The world is an amusing place when this kind of person produces this kind of manga.

I asked Hironori Kikuchi to send a message to his American readers.

Hello. I like and miss pork cutlets that I buy from Sanyo Supermarket. You should think about buying them. If you ever go to Sanyo. You get four for 330 yen. But in terms of Denis Inc Brothers, Denis's quality is a little better. You should check out your local supermarket battles between Sanyo and Denis, too.

???

Note: *Gedatsu* is a Buddhist term for salvation or enlightenment. We have used the original Japanese name, because of its different connotations from Christian salvation.

GEDATSU MAN
THE CHARACTER WARS
EXTRA! EXTRA! GET YOUR SHITHEAD NEWSPAPER HERE!
WHAT!?
PIGEON

THE SHITHEAD TIMES

A SHITHEAD PUBLICATION — PROFESSOR GONE, PUBLISHER

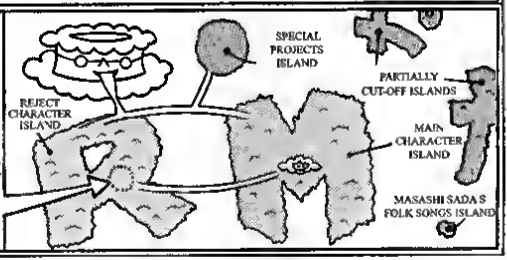
WAR
ON REJECT CHARACTER ISLAND!!!
MONSTERS VS. ROBOTS

MONSTER LEADER
HERMIT MONSTER

ROBOT LEADER
MECHA MESSIAH

IN THEIR STRUGGLE TO BECOME MAIN CHARACTERS THESE TWO GROUPS HAVE ENDED UP FIGHTING EACH OTHER!! THE VICTORS WILL NO DOUBT BECOME THE LEADERS OF THE REJECT CHARACTERS!!

THE SCENE OF THE BATTLE



WOW!! CHARACTER WARS!!

SHUT UP!!
WAP
THEN IT'LL BE A THREE-WAY BATTLE!
WHEEN
THIS IS GREAT!
WE SHOULD JOIN THE FIGHT.
CHARGING AN ARM AND A LEG FOR CHEAP GOODS
THAT'S RIGHT. FIRST WORLD NATIONS PROFIT BY SELLING WEAPONS TO WARRING COUNTRIES!
THINK ABOUT IT! WE CAN MAKE A QUICK BUCK HERE!
I GET IT. LET'S GO THEN.
YOU REALLY PACKED IT!!
WOW!
BAG OF SWAG
WAP
OUCH!
NO, ONLY THE PRIVILEGED ARE ALLOWED TO GO!!
C'MON EVERYONE!!!
ALL RIGHT! WE GOT THE GOODS!! LET'S GO TO REJECT CHARACTER ISLAND!
...IGNORING OUR UNWIELDY OTHER SELVES, WE TOOK OFF ON OUR OWN
SO WE SPLIT OFF FROM OUR MAIN UNITS AND...

THE CHARACTER WARS
WOW!! IT'S ALREADY STARTING!!
ALL RIGHT, ONE-EYED LEAF MONSTER, PROCEED IN ORDER FROM STRONG TO WEAK!!
DON'T ORDER ME AROUND! I KNOW WHAT TO DO!!
LOOK OVER THERE!
OUR CHARACTERS DON'T PROCEED LIKE THAT!! THEY'RE ALL EQUAL STRENGTH! AIN'T THAT RIGHT, SECTION CHIEF ROBOT?
SHUT UP!

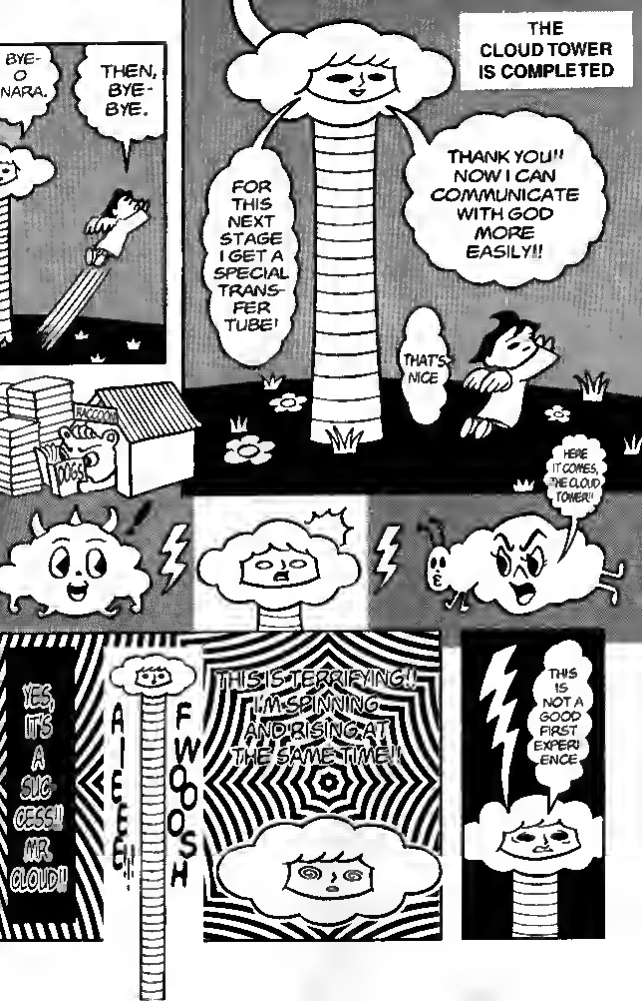
ALL RIGHT THEN, FIRST LET'S FIGHT UNARMED!
UMPA UMPA RRRRL
ROBOT
LEAVE THE FISTFIGHTING TO ME!
LEFT JAB!
MECHANISTERWING
SPECIAL PROJECTS ISLAND
I CAN RELATE. I'M A MONSTER ROBOT..
I'M IN A DILEMMA... I'M A ROBOT MONSTER...
THIS IS NO GOOD! WE'RE NOT GETTING RESULTS! IT'S TIME WE USED THE WEAPONS WE GOT FROM THE ARMS DEALERS!!
OSKAR SCHLEMMER
THE BUTTON
BITTE DRÜCKEN !
WHAT WILL THE KIDS THINK
WHAT?

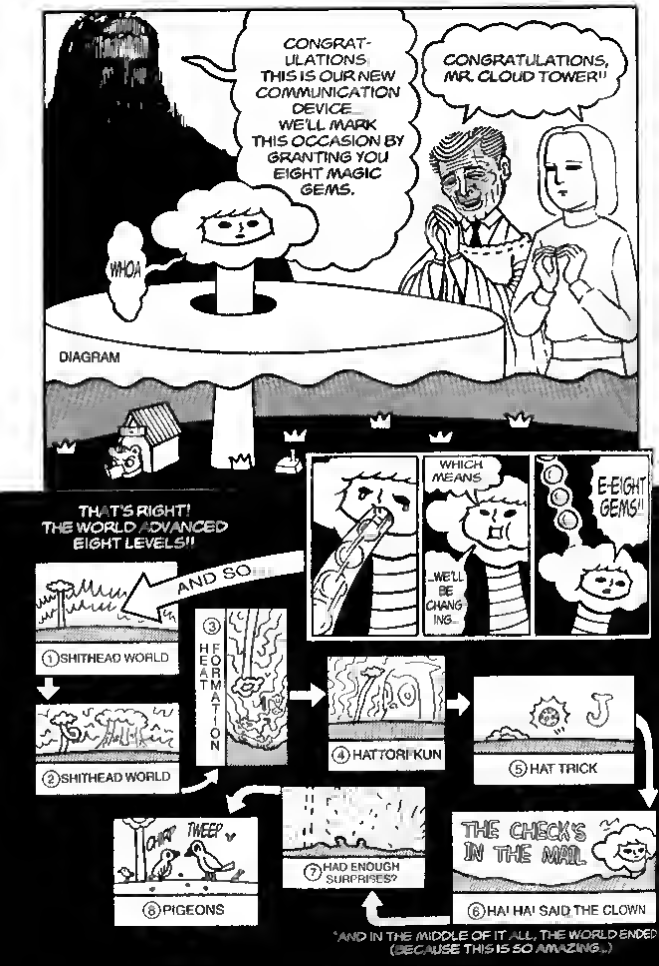
YOU'RE KIDDING! WHAT ABOUT US!?
YOU'VE BOUGHT WEAPONS ALREADY?!
15% DISCOUNT
HIGH POWERED ASSAULT WEAPONS AUTOMAT
ALSO RAMEN NOODLES
RAMEN
YEE-ESS!!
ZOOM
GOOD WEAPONS ARE AMAZING
YES!!
HOW QUAINT!! DON'T LOOK SO DEJECTED (STILL WE WON'T NEED THEM)
SIGH
WOW! THEY ALL LOOK SO EXPENSIVE... SAY, PROFESSOR, WHAT KIND OF WEAPONS DID YOU BRING?
HMMM...
...IS STEALING OUR THUNDER?
JUST WHO THE HELL...

GOD! THE TRINITY! THE DEMIURGE! THE DIVINE!
IT MUST BE... THEM!!
GASP!
?
AAAAGGGH!
"THOSE LETTERS ON THE SHOP IS "O"O"..."
"GOD?"
THEM? "GOD?" WHO'S THAT? I DON'T GET IT.
NOW I'M REALLY GETTING PISSED IT WAS THOSE BASTARDS!!
DEDICATED RELIGIOUS PRACTITIONERS.
HOW DARE THEY! CALLING THE LORD GOD A BASTARD!! GOD KNOWS WHAT'S COMING TO THEM!! THEY'LL BE SORRY!...
VOICE AN OBJECTION
THOSE BASTARDS!
OF COURSE NOT, SIR! BUT I'M AN EXCEPTION. I'M GOING TO MAKE SURE YOU SMITE ME FOR ALL ETERNITY!!
HA HA HA! LOOK HERE- I DON'T SMITE PEOPLE JUST BECAUSE THEY CALL ME A BASTARD
YOUR HEAD IS TERRI-FYING...
STOP IT FOR CHRIS-SAKES.

ABSOLUTELY... THE FROG PROFESSOR'S EYE FOR WEAPONS WAS REALLY AMAZING THIS TIME ROUND.
I WAS ACTUALLY REALLY MOVED... BY THE WEAPONS THE FROG PROFESSOR BROUGHT...
I'M SORRY, SIR! I WAS JUST KIDDING.
JUST THE SIGHT OF THUMB TACKS, SAFETY PINS AND BAMBOO SPEARS MAKES ME SHIVER. GETTING SHOT IN THE HEAD WOULD BE MUCH PREFERABLE TO HAVING YOUR EYES POKED OUT BY THUMB TACKS, OR BEING STABBED BY A BAMBOO STAKE.
BY THE WAY! ANGEL! ARE YOU FINISHED WITH YOUR CLOUD TOWER?
YES.
YOU MUST THINK FIRST BEFORE YOU SPEAK! OR BEFORE YOU THINK IN THIS CASE!
SIGH...
HOLD ON! SPEAKING OF BAMBOO... I HAVE A HANGNAIL.
THAT SENSATION OF A HANGNAIL TOO DEEP TO EXTRACT, GROWING BENEATH YOUR SKIN, IS REALLY UNBEARABLE.
IT'S AS IRRITATING AS BEING STALKED BY AN UPPERCLASSMAN.
JUST A LITTLE MORE TO GO.
MS. ORTHORN I ALWAYS HAVE A HARD TIME UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

DUHH
OUH-UH HEE HEE
MOVING
RACCOON
I'M FARTING.
FLAP FLAP
HEY ANGEL, WHATCHA DOIN'?
ANGEL
...
TO THE CAR!
AN ANGEL'S FART SMELLS LIKE A FLORAL BOUQUET.
AHHHH! THAT'S GREAT!
BEEP BEEP BEEP

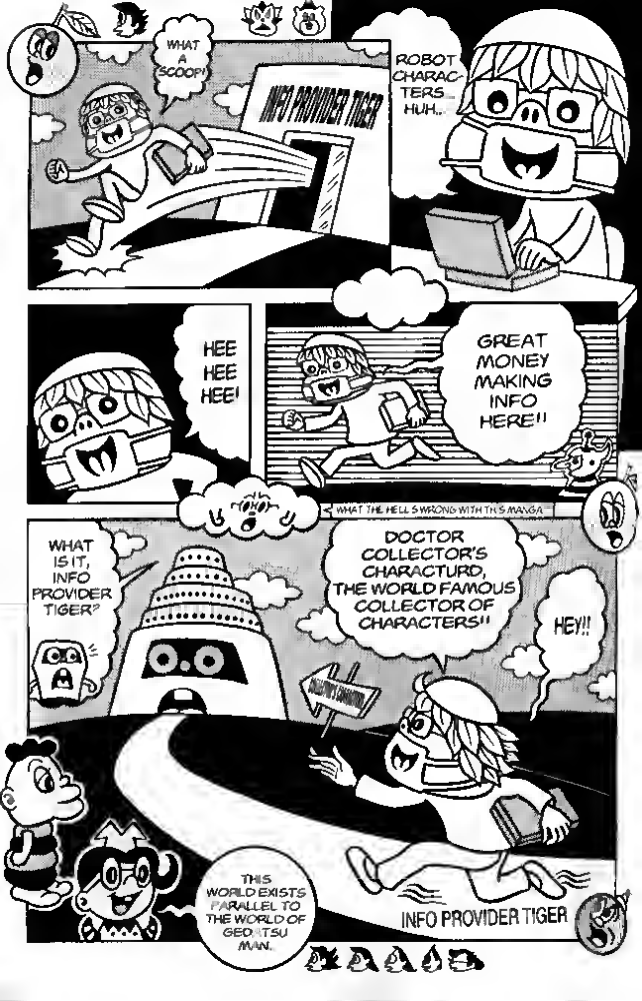

BYE-O NARA.
THEN, BYE-BYE.
THE CLOUD TOWER IS COMPLETED
FOR THIS NEXT STAGE I GET A SPECIAL TRANS-FER TUBE!
THANK YOU!! NOW I CAN COMMUNICATE WITH GOD MORE EASILY!!
THAT'S NICE
RACCOON
DOG
HERE IT COMES, THE CLOUD TOWER!!
YES, IT'S A SUC-CESS!! MR. CLOUD!!
AIEEE!!
WOOSH
THIS IS TERRIFYING!! I'M SINKING AND RISING AT THE SAME TIME!
THIS IS NOT A GOOD FIRST EXPERI-ENCE


CONGRATULATIONS, MR. CLOUD TOWER!!
CONGRAT-ULATIONS. THIS IS OUR NEW COMMUNICATION DEVICE... WE'LL MARK THIS OCCASION BY GRANTING YOU EIGHT MAGIC GEMS.
WHOA
DIAGRAM
E-EIGHT GEMS!!
WHICH MEANS...
...WE'LL BE CHANG-ING...
THAT'S RIGHT! THE WORLD ADVANCED EIGHT LEVELS!!
AND SO...
①SHITHEAD WORLD
②SHITHEAD WORLD
③HEAT FORMATION
④HATTORI-KUN
⑤HAT TRICK
⑥HA! HA! SAID THE CLOWN
THE CHECK'S IN THE MAIL
⑦HAD ENOUGH SURPRISES?
⑧PIGEONS
CHIRP TWEEP
*AND IN THE MIDDLE OF IT ALL, THE WORLD ENDED (BECAUSE THIS IS SO AMAZING...)

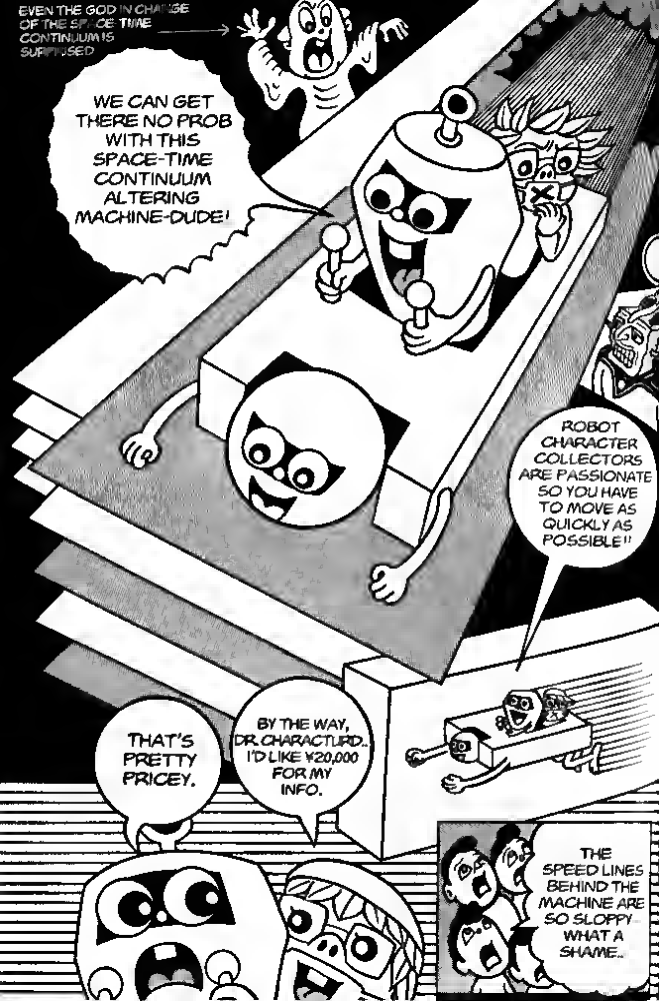
NOW THE STUPID WORLD AND THE SHITHEAD WORLD WILL NEVER BE THE SAME.. TOYING WITH THE INHABITANTS.. GRUMBLE GRUMBLE
RACCOON
RODIN
DAMN, THE WORLD SURE HAS CHANGED!
GIVE ME A BREAK!
HEY PIGEONS, IT'S PEACEFUL NOW, HUH?
WE HAVE JUST GOTTEN PAST LEVEL 8!
TCH!
I HAVE GOOD NEWS.
HEY, WHAT HAPPENED!?
WOOSH
WE'RE BACK!
I AM NOW THE CLOUD TOWER.. WITH THE GUIDANCE OF OUR MOST WISE GOD..
WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON?
SO THAT WE CAN HIT "RESET" AND GO BACK TO THE PREVIOUS WORLD!
I SEE!! THEN THAT'S WHY THESE CONTROLS ARE INSTALLED HERE!
HA HA HA.. BY THE WAY, WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CHARACTER WARS?
FOUR SWORDS
OH! IT SAYS "I AM PISSED"
I AM PISSED
E'RE NOT TELLING
GIVE ME A BREAK!

GEDATSU MAN
COLLECTOR'S CHARACTURD

★ NEWS FROM THE NEXT DIMENSION ★
VIP VIP VIP!! A GIANT ROBOT HAS BEEN SPITTING FORTH OTHER STRANGE ROBOTS IN A WORLD RUN BY SOMEONE NAMED GEDATSU MAN
1 MINUTE
OH NO...
THE INHABITANTS ARE HAVING A DIFFICULT TIME BUT THE ROBOT FANS ARE LOVING IT... THAT'S THE REPORT!!
AT THIS RATE
WE'LL END UP LIKE JAPAN'S WASTE DISPOSAL SYSTEM.

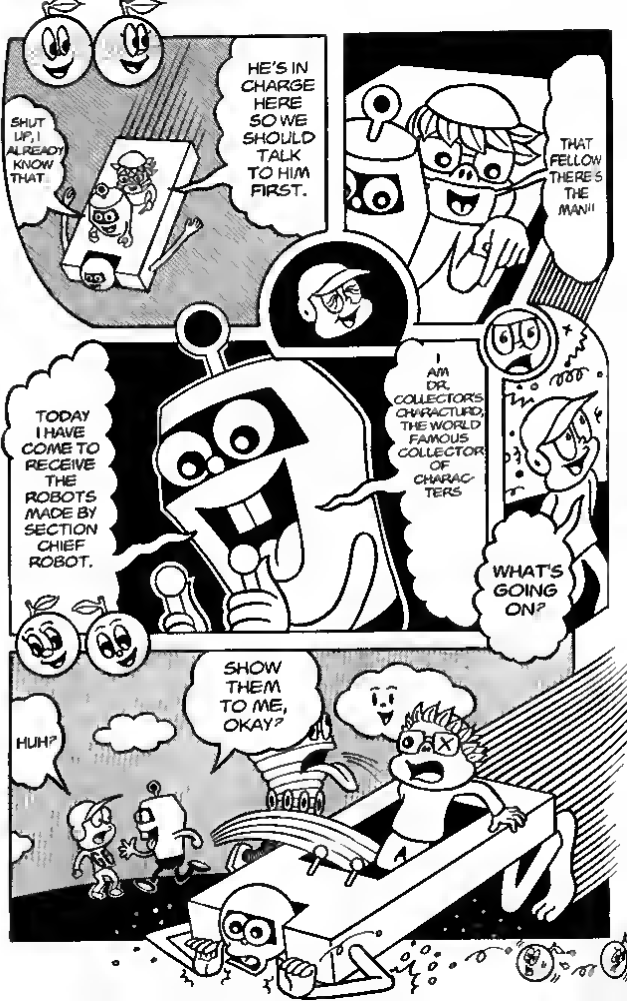

WHAT A SCOOP!
INFO PROVIDER TIGER
ROBOT CHARACTERS... HUH...
HEE HEE HEE!
GREAT MONEY MAKING INFO HERE!!
WHAT THE HELL'S WRONG WITH THIS MANGA
WHAT IS IT, INFO PROVIDER TIGER?
DOCTOR COLLECTOR'S CHARACTURD, THE WORLD FAMOUS COLLECTOR OF CHARACTERS!!
HEY!!
THIS WORLD EXISTS PARALLEL TO THE WORLD OF GEDATSU MAN.
INFO PROVIDER TIGER

3×1=3
I CAN'T FIND ANY RECENT ONES LATELY...
NOT TOO GOOD...
HOW'S THE COLLECTING GOING?
ABOUT ENCYCLOPEDIA
HALLS OF THE NORTHWEST
MATH GAMES
HOW TO BUILD THINGS
THIS IS WHAT THE ROBOT LOOKS LIKE. IT'S IN A WORLD RUN BY SOMEONE CALLED GEDATSU MAN...
JUDGING FROM HIS NAME, I IMAGINE IT'S A WORLD CLOSE TO OURS. WHICH MEANS
WH-
WHA?
THEN I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO ONE!! IT PRODUCES ROBOT CHARACTERS


EVEN THE GOD IN CHARGE OF THE SPACE TIME CONTINUUM IS SURPRISED
WE CAN GET THERE NO PROB WITH THIS SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM ALTERING MACHINE-DUDE!
ROBOT CHARACTER COLLECTORS ARE PASSIONATE SO YOU HAVE TO MOVE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE!!
BY THE WAY, DR. CHARACTURD.. I'D LIKE ¥20,000 FOR MY INFO.
THAT'S PRETTY PRICEY.
THE SPEED LINES BEHIND THE MACHINE ARE SO SLOPPY WHAT A SHAME..

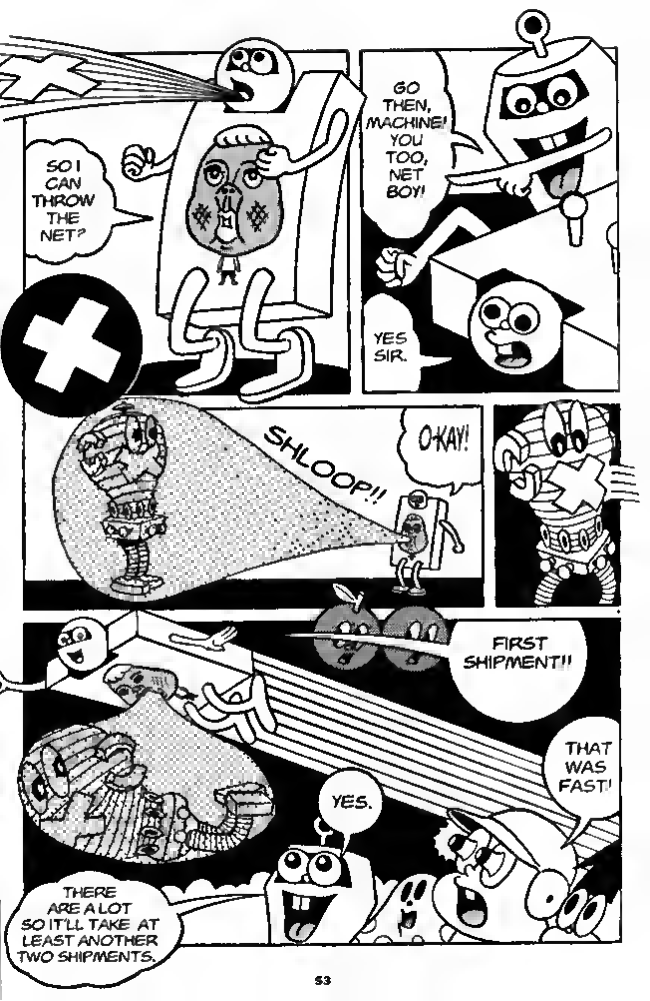
(MEANWHILE, SECTION CHIEF ROBOT WAS BUSY MAKING ROBOT CHARACTERS GALORE.)

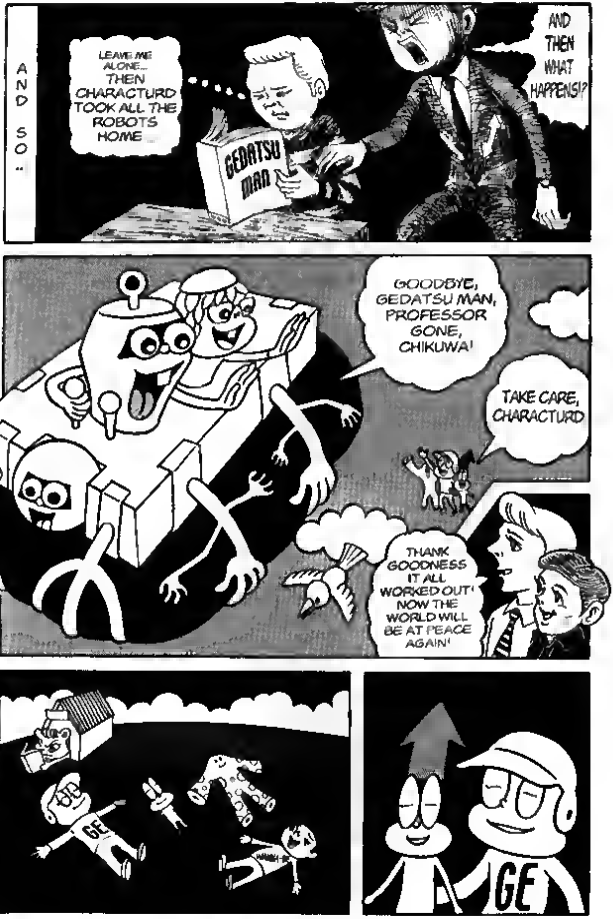
WHOA!
HUH?
WE'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS, PROFESSOR!
HE MUST HAVE LOST IT ALONG WITH SECTION CHIEF ROBOT.
GEDA-TSU MAN DOESN'T LOOK ALL RIGHT.

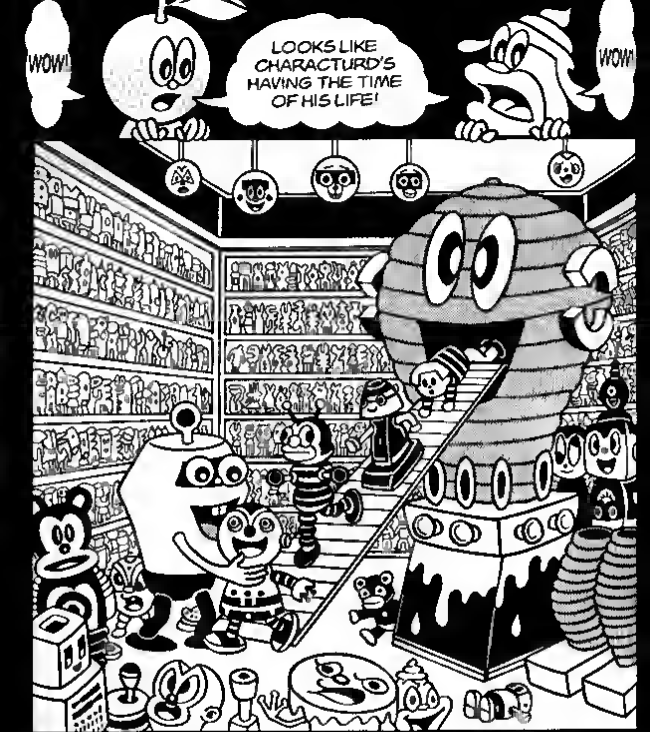

SHUT UP, I ALREADY KNOW THAT.
HE'S IN CHARGE HERE SO WE SHOULD TALK TO HIM FIRST.
THAT FELLOW THERE'S THE MAN!!
I AM DR. COLLECTOR'S CHARACTURD, THE WORLD FAMOUS COLLECTOR OF CHARACTERS
TODAY I HAVE COME TO RECEIVE THE ROBOTS MADE BY SECTION CHIEF ROBOT.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
SHOW THEM TO ME, OKAY?
HUH?

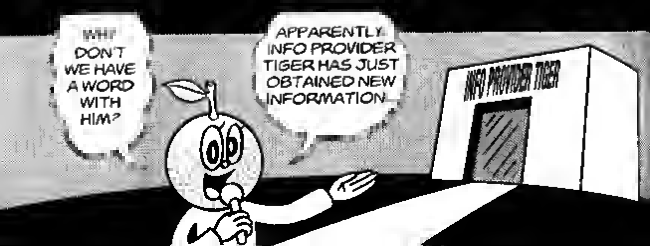
(DR. COLLECTOR'S CHARACTURD IN A STATE OF UTTER BLISS)

DO THE HASSLE!!


SO I CAN THROW THE NET?
GO THEN, MACHINE! YOU TOO, NET BOY!
YES SIR.
SHLOOP!!
O-KAY!
FIRST SHIPMENT!!
THAT WAS FAST!
YES.
THERE ARE A LOT SO IT'LL TAKE AT LEAST ANOTHER TWO SHIPMENTS.


AND SO...
LEAVE ME ALONE... THEN CHARACTURD TOOK ALL THE ROBOTS HOME
GEDATSU MAN
AND THEN WHAT HAPPENS!?
GOODBYE, GEDATSU MAN, PROFESSOR GONE, CHIKUWA!
TAKE CARE, CHARACTURD
THANK GOODNESS IT ALL WORKED OUT! NOW THE WORLD WILL BE AT PEACE AGAIN!
GE
GE


WOW!
LOOKS LIKE CHARACTURD'S HAVING THE TIME OF HIS LIFE!
WOW!


WHY DON'T WE HAVE A WORD WITH HIM?
APPARENTLY INFO PROVIDER TIGER HAS JUST OBTAINED NEW INFORMATION.
INFO PROVIDER TIGER

ONCE AGAIN IT'S FOR CHARAC-TURD!
NEW INFO!
WELL, PROFES-SOR?
BIP BIP BIP MORE LATE-BREAKING NEWS ON CHARACTERS SWARMING THE WORLD!
OOOKYAA!
THAT'S NICE, BUT I DON'T COLLECT MONSTERS, SO I WON'T BE JOINING YOU ON THIS ONE.
NOW THE ONE-EYED LEAF MONSTER HAS LOST IT- IT'S PRODUCING MONSTER CHARACTERS THAT OTAKU WOULD DROOL OVER.
OH, PLEASE, COME ONNN~~~~ !!!

Yuko Tsuno

Swing Shelf

First appeared in *Gore*, April 2000

I've been Yuko Tsuno's editor since she made her debut with *Reizoko* (Refrigerator) in *Gore* in 1996 and have worked with her on just one more *manga*. She's an artist I've paid close attention to in spite of her recent accomplishments and future, though, it's difficult to say whether Tsuno's achieved the amount of name recognition or critical acclaim she deserves. This probably has a lot to do with her personality. She has nothing to do with selling her name or giving herself much exposure than is absolutely necessary. She does not have the desire to become a big name manga artist. In addition, as Japan, large scale publishers are centered in Tokyo and wonderful artists gather in the Tokyo area Tsuno lives in distant Fukuyama and, since her debut, still continues to work as a graphic design student. She doesn't make her living as a manga artist.

However I love her manga and think very highly of her talent. Of Tsuno's first collection *Dandelion* (which is unfortunately out of print, Murasaki Yamada (the artist of manga, wrote, "Yuko Tsuno creates her manga by weaving it together. Tsuno's manga gives the impression that she draws her manga in the manner of a girl who carefully knits together each loop of a sweater that she likes. I believe this love is conveyed to her readers. Tsuno very rarely creates her manga and does so the reckless use of conventional so called title-geared manga. She has chosen the freedom of publishing work that she wants to create.

After her debut in *Gore* Tsuno's manga naturally caught the eye of many manga magazines, who were offline for her work to be serialized. Despite by the hordes of struggling artists waiting to do as they are told in order to become popular manga artists, it was like a Cinderella story. Tsuno, however, declined the offers. And over ten years later she continues to draw manga that still appear like bright, shiny gems scattered throughout the pages of *Gore*.

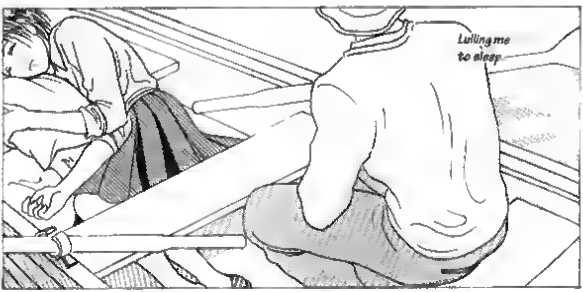
Message from Yuko Tsuno: "Thank you for reading my manga that basically just exists for myself."

Which also reveals her attitude of doing things her own way, at her own pace.

SWING SHELL

YUKO TSUNO

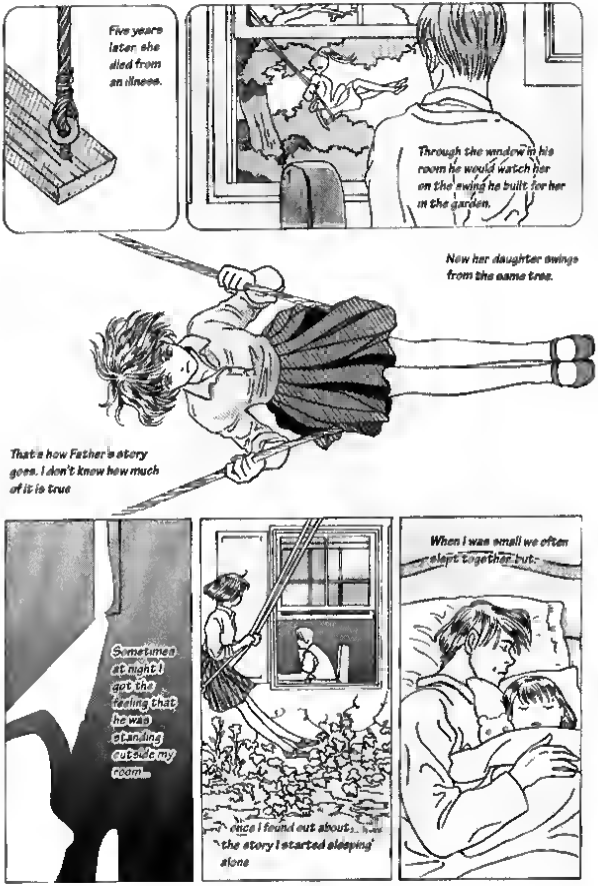
The slow murmur of the flowing river and waves.
The dusk reflecting against the sea, milky from yesterday's rain, makes me feel like I'm inside an oyster shell



HELLO DEAR.
I rush home after school.
I'LL BE DONE SOON. THEN WE CAN GO FOR A BOAT RIDE!
Father's
AREN'T YOU SLEEPY?
The waves cradling me protecting me, lulling me to sleep. Maybe it's the sound of waves lapping against the hull of the boat.
I don't think he wants me to have any friends.
that's making me so sleepy

In Father's novel, when I was still inside Mother she was busy working as a trapeze artist
Starlight Circus
She performed as Star 5 featured in the well known circus attraction the "Shooting Stars"
He made his feelings known to this woman who had lost her identity
She suffered only minor injuries but due to the shock she fell into a deep sleep
The blindfolded knife thrower who was secretly in love with her appeared
One day a bear broke out of its cage and attacked Star 5

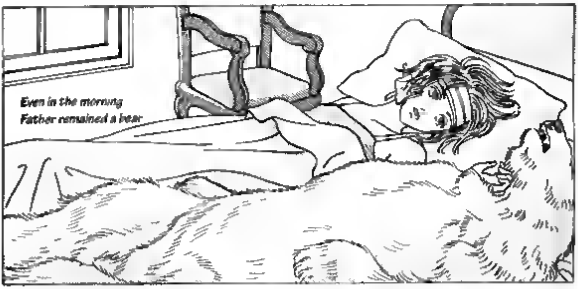
The first thing she did was buy a pair of sneakers.
As her stomach grew in size, she decided to leave the circus.
Shortly after her recovery she discovered she was pregnant.
To run away from the blindfolded knife thrower
Drawn to her background, a novelist hired her as a house keeper
He did not expect he would
Following a sequence of breathtaking thrills and suspense
– fall in love with her
the knife thrower was killed in an accident


Five years later she died from an illness.
Through the window in his room he would watch her on the swing he built for her in the garden.
Now her daughter swings from the same tree.
That's how Father's story goes. I don't know how much of it is true
Sometimes at night I got the feeling that he was standing outside my room...
...once I found out about... the story I started sleeping alone
When I was small we often slept together but:-

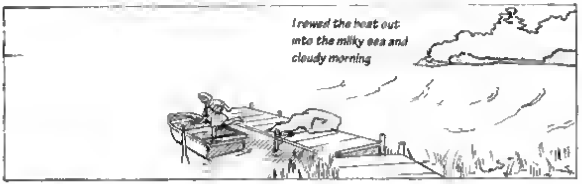
I wonder whether he will ever open the door and come in?
HELP!
!!
HELP ME, MOTHER!
THE INJURY FROM HER FALL ITSELF WAS SLIGHT BUT THE BLOW FROM THE DOWNWARD SWING
Didn't you know that I hate you?
I'm not to say that tears are meant for the sky.

CALL ME IF YOU NEED ANY FURTHER ASSISTANCE.
Or because Mother got upset?
Is it because of the head injury?
ARE YOU AWAKE?
Father, what am I going to do?
Or because I'm afraid?
IT'S RAINING SO BE CAREFUL
SEE YOU TOMORROW TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF DEAR.

it became a frightening force no longer capable of holding itself back
who made Mother pregnant.
I was terrified by the thought that it was the bear instead of the knife thrower
I GUESS SLEEPING PILLS DON'T WORK ON BEARS.
DOES IT HURT?
SLAM!
and the sound of rain lulled me to sleep too.
The sleeping pills eventually did make the bear fall asleep
I HOPE YOU DON'T HAVE ANY SCARS...



I felt happy and thought of escaping as far as I could before the bear woke up.


I rowed the boat out into the milky sea and cloudy morning

A border against a transparent sea.
After awhile I reached a strange place.

I am rowing slowly along this border so that I don't fall off the edge of the shell

END

Yoshitomo Yoshimoto

Jr.

Selected from *Greatest Hits +3* (Futabasha)

Yoshitomo Yoshimoto made his debut in the *shôjo* manga magazine, *Gekkan Asuka*, published by Kadokawa Shoten. It wasn't with a *shôjo* manga, though, but a four-panel gag manga. It isn't rare to find male manga artists drawing for *shôjo* magazines: the *shôjo* male-artist heritage goes back to the venerable Leiji Matsumoto in the '60s and Hikaru Yuzuki in the '70s. At any rate, Yoshimoto quickly became a hit with his witty gags and refined art style. Soon he switched sides to the *seinen* (young men's) magazines. His manga have not lost popularity. Even today he's popular — or, rather, is considered among the "charismatic" manga artists.

Jr., from 1987, is loosely based on Donald Barthelme's short story, "Me and Miss Mandible." There are obvious points in common: the main character is an adult who goes to elementary school; in the end, he's sent off to a special school and, for that occasion, his friend gives him a special gift. (In Barthelme's story, the gift is a record, but in Yoshimoto's manga it's something else.) The manga is inspired by the original short story, but at the same time is created from the "Yoshimoto World" perspective.

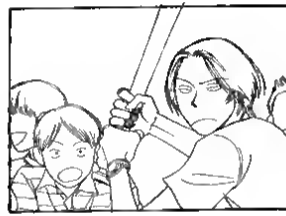
Written from this personal perspective, Yoshimoto's manga usually follow the perspective of a cool, nonchalant narrator. The main character in *Jr.*, Sakata, the 32-year-old elementary-school student, for example, is of this temperament. In comparison with Yoshimoto's early gag manga, with its girls fretting about their boyfriends and long, excess-driving internal monologues (I'm not criticizing—I love platonic *shôjo* manga!), Yoshimoto's later manga pulls in the reader with subdued, sensitive words. I don't mean to say that Yoshimoto himself is a cold person. I want to say that he has a cool, fine aesthetic. A teenage boy once told me his impressions of Yoshimoto's manga: "It's incredible that a person in his mid-thirties can create manga that people my age can read and relate to and that has such an impact." I agree.

Yoshimoto uses detailed and refined lines in his drawings. This art style melds with his perspective, which at times verges on conveying a lack of personality. I say that his manga are cool, but of course they're neither dispassionate nor resigned. There's always an element in his manga that balances them out. In *Jr.* that element would be Takako-sensei. By the way, after *Jr.* was published, "lonely Takako-chan" appeared in the digital manga anthology CD-ROM *Flag*, where she masturbates at great lengths as a computer graphic. Poor lonely Takako-chan.

A message to American readers from Yoshitomo Yoshimoto: "Japanese manga in America. Probably just stuff like *Akira*, right? That sucks."

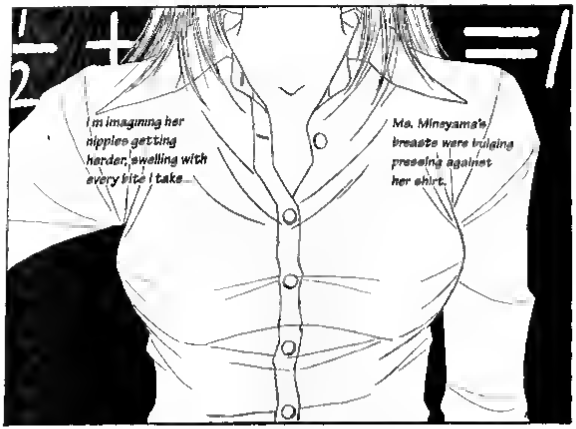
Wow, he really is cool.

Jr.



よしもと よしとも

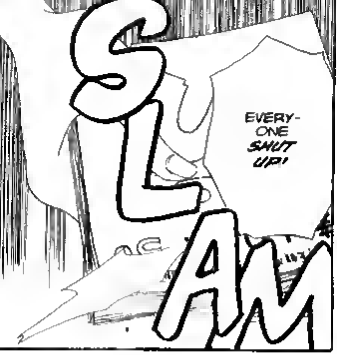
Yoshitomo Yoshimoto

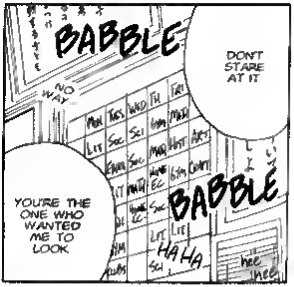

I'm imagining her nipples getting harder, swelling with every bite I take.
Ms. Minoyama's breasts were bulging pressing against her shirt.

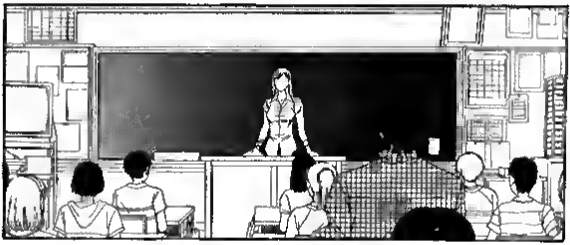
I GOT IT YESTERDAY
POWER RANGERS

HUH.
HA HA
hee hee

BABBLE
HUH?
BABBLE
CHECK OUT MY WATCH.

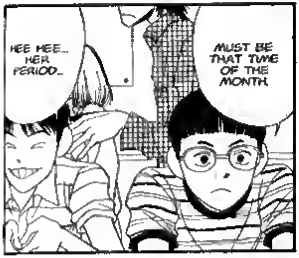

SLAM
EVERY-ONE SHUT UP!


BABBLE
DON'T STARE AT IT
NO WAY
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WANTED ME TO LOOK
BABBLE
HA HA
hee hee



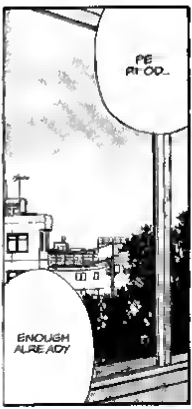
I'M SO SICK AND TIRED OF THIS!

WHY WON'T YOU LISTEN TO ME?


HEE HEE... HER PERIOD...
MUST BE THAT TIME OF THE MONTH.

MISS MINEYAMA WAS CRYING.
手を洗おう!!

PERIOD PERI OD..


PE RI OD..
ENOUGH ALREADY

YOU'RE COMING WITH US, OZAWA.
L- LEAVE ME ALONE

SINCE YOU'RE YKNOW
ha ha ha
TURN AROUND

ME?

WE'RE PLAYING DODGEBALL TODAY
YEAAA!!
CUFFS? YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING!

WHAT'S THIS?

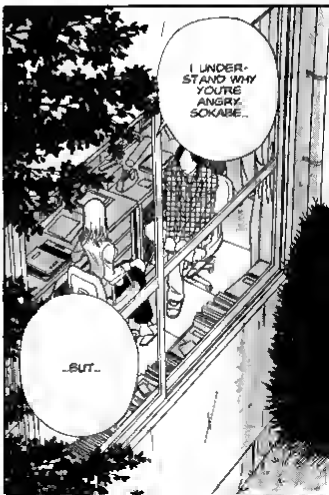
WE NEED YOU TO HAVE A HANDICAP
ALL RIGHT, EVERY-ONE!!

WOO HOO
YEAH, LAUGH! I CAN HARDLY MOVE!
haha
JUMP JUMP

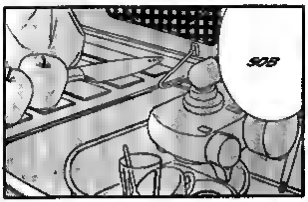
HEE HEE
WHOA
ARRRGHH
JUMP JUMP

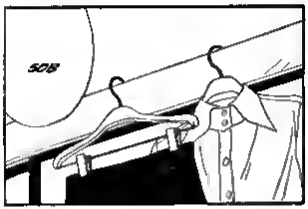
BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT, EVEN IF YOU ARE...
YOU SHOULDN'T THINK YOU'RE SPECIAL.

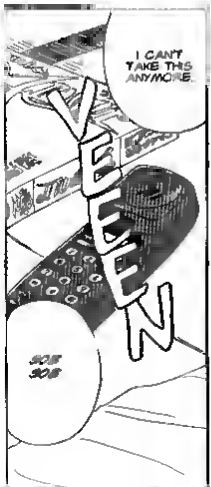
THIRTY-TWO YEARS OLD.


I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'RE ANGRY, SOKABE...
...BUT...

CAN I...
...ASK YOU SOME THING, THOUGH?
WELL WHAT EVER
SOKABE
S-3
WHAT?
NO NOT AT ALL
DON'T YOU EVER GET LONELY?

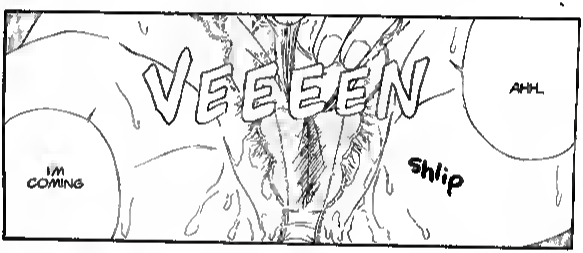

SOB

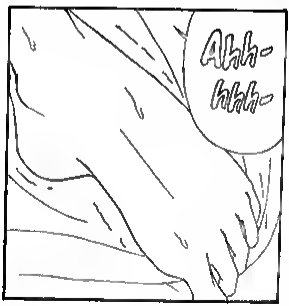

SOB

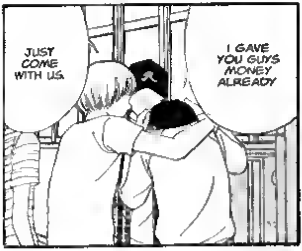

I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANYMORE.
VEEEN
SOB SOB

TUGG
TAKAKO'S LONELY
SOB
VEEEEEEN

I'M COMING
SOKABE, I'M COMING


VEEEEN
AHH.
I'M COMING
Shlip


Ahh-
hhh-


JUST COME WITH US.
I GAVE YOU GUYS MONEY ALREADY

STOP IT!

OZAWA

WHY THE FUCK ARE YOU HERE ANYWAY...
YOU'RE A FUCKIN GROWNUP YOU CREEP!

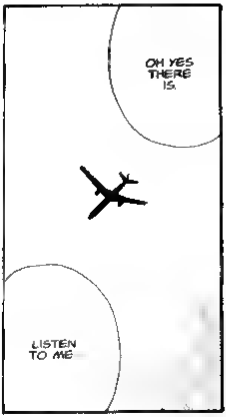
HEY SOKABE, LEAVE US ALONE
YOU'RE COMING WITH ME

WE'RE NOT SCARED OF YOU... YOU ASSHOLE.
SPIT
SO MANY NO SMOKING AREAS AROUND THESE DAYS.
MERIT Lights
CAN'T SMOKE ANY WHERE
U-UH, SOKABE?

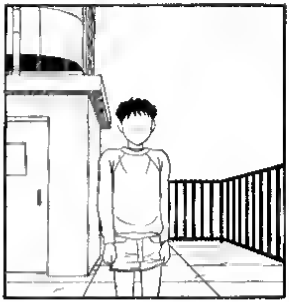
YKNOW...

P PLEASE LEAVE ME ALONE
THEY'LL JUST PICK ON ME MORE

I'VE BEEN TO SCHOOL I'VE WORKED AT A COMPANY...
I'M TIRED OF SEEING THIS KIND OF BULLSHIT


OH YES THERE IS
LISTEN TO ME

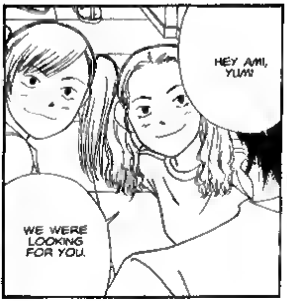
BU BUT THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT
COME ON YOU GUYS ARE YOUNGER, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE MORE ADVANCED

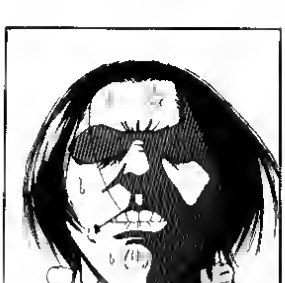


ALL OF A SUDDEN EVERY THING WILL CHANGE.
..TRY LASHING OUT FOR ONCE.

OH THERE YOU ARE SOKABE
5-1

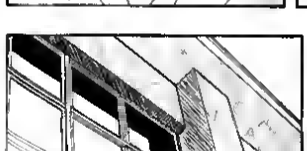
CAN YOU COME WITH US?
HA HA HA ♡


HEY AMI, YUU!
WE WERE LOOKING FOR YOU.



to Sakabe

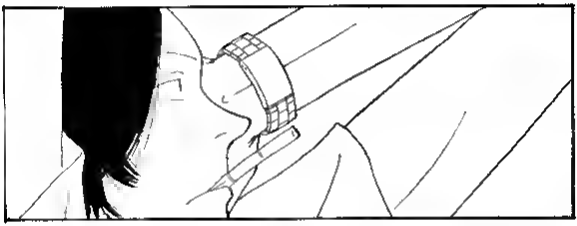
HAI.
YAH
YOU JERKS!!

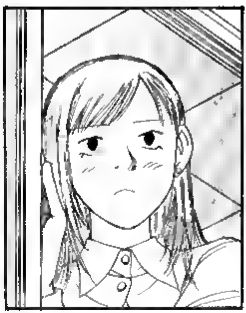

WE'RE PLAYING BASEBALL LATER. YOU'RE JOINING US, RIGHT?

AIEEEE !!

HEY, KOGURE
YOU THINK I'M A CREEP?
NAH, NOT TODAY
AH COME ON, IT'S BORING WITHOUT YOU
UH HUH
BUT NOT...
I APPRECIATE YOUR HONESTY
...AS MUCH AS YOU THINK
IT'S NOT LIKE PEOPLE ARE THINKING ABOUT YOU ALL THE TIME

EVERYONE'S BUSY TRYING TO LEAD THEIR OWN LIVES.





...two years ago I got divorced

I worked as an adjuster for an insurance company...

My three year-old daughter...

My role in life

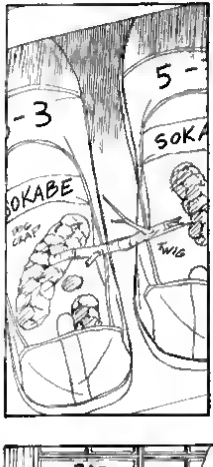
I ran track in junior high and high school.

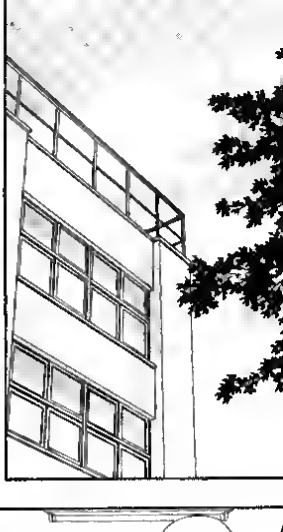
In college I studied economics.

Is YOUR world running smoothly without any trouble?

Chase the baseball flying through the air!

Too many questions that can't be answered.


-3
5-
SOKA
SOKABE
TWIG
TWIG
CRAP



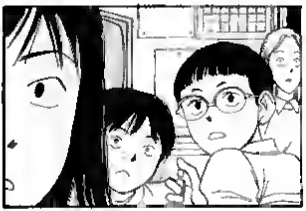
BABBLE
BABBLE
GOOD MORNING SOKABE
HEY WHERE ARE YOUR SLIPPERS?

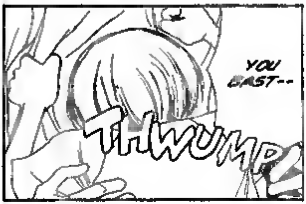
HERE HE COMES.
BEEP BWANG! BAM!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?

THAT'S IT.

KRAK
CHWUD

YAAAA!
THRAK
THAT'S ENOUGH, YOU IDIOT!




YOU BAST--
THWUMP

WHOK
KER
AAAA--
KRAK
TH
AAIIIII!!
MS. MINEYAMA, I'M SCARED!--
WAK

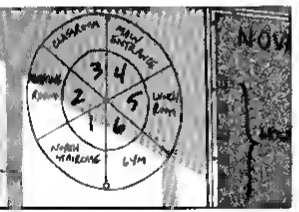
DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU JUST DID?
I GOT TIRED OF PLAYING THE CLOWN.
YOU SHOULD BE MORE HONEST, TOO
NOW THE KIDS WILL KNOW WHAT A COMPLETE SHAM THIS WAS.
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF ME?

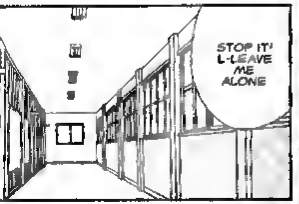
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU'RE ONE OF MY STUDENTS.
WHEN YOU'RE OVER THIRTY, YOU CAN TELL.
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU MASTURBATED THINKING ABOUT ME?
YOU'D GET SO HORNY WHEN YOU HEAR MY COMMANDS...
SHLL
SEE, YOU'RE WET AGAIN.
I GOT OFF ON YOU TOO, TAKAKO.
MY THICK JUNIOR WOULD COME INSIDE YOUR CUTE LIPS.

LONELY TAKAKO WILL SPEND ANOTHER NIGHT TOUCHING HERSELF!! ISN'T IT TOUCHING?
HA HA HA
STOP IT!!
YOUR PANTIES ARE SOAKED, TAKAKO
BUT IF YOU GOT INVOLVED WITH ONE OF YOUR STUDENTS, IT'D BE A TERRIBLE SCANDAL.
HA HA HA
STOP HUMILIATING ME
SOB SOB
I knew I'd be expelled...

So I ended up being transferred to a school for "special education."

...but I was treated as just another problem child.





SONAABE!
HERE, THIS IS FOR YOU.

The Power Rangers watch on my left wrist is shining

I decided to escape on the 3 p.m. train

THE END

Kiriko Nananan

Heartless Bitch and *Painful Love*

Selected from *Water* (Sennsui, 1998)

Kiriko Nananan, the manga artist with the **Sony** sounding name, made her debut in 1993 in *Gara* with *Hole Hole* a panel layout and drawings were organized as if they were illustrations, the length of the manga was so short the ending seemed abrupt, and the dialogue hit true in the heart. Her manga are often acclaimed as being "almost exactly like storyboards for movies." Her use of small props, the flow of time and the use of space and backgrounds, although they definitely cannot be considered detailed, convey the feeling of things as they are.

In the world of Japanese manga, women manga artists don't need to be put in a special category. There are countless women manga artists, good and bad, that create narrative manga. So when I refer to "women manga artists, I refer to those that relate stories from a consciously adult, female perspective. I'm referring to manga artists who are conscious of being women and consciously express this in their manga.

In the '70s, Moto-oki Yamada continually and pointedly depicted the casual, everyday life of women. In the '80s, Ryoko Ohsaki, Eiko Sakamoto and Shungiku Uchida boldly depicted sex from women's perspectives. And in the '90s, it became matter of fact that women artists drew manga about being women and sex from a female perspective. Of course, this was due to pioneers who set the precedent.

In artists years, many female manga artists have taken up the "manga pen" to draw "in the present" from a first-person perspective. But in the present-tense reality, where anything can become the subject of manga the reader unconsciously seeks out the reasons the artist creates, the stories why the artist is an artist. It can be said that it's more difficult to create manga in these circumstances, and it's in such circumstances that Nananan has gained popularity as a fashionable, trendy, and cool manga artist.

Nananan's supporters tend to be young women who are about her age, but many men have discovered they also identify with her realism. After Nananan continued to publish shorts in *Gara*, she was soon published by major magazines and became extremely popular. Even now, young readers identify with every one of Nananan's words. Her growth as a manga artist, along with the maturation of her manga, has been wonderful. The manga included here are relatively older works, but they retain the original freshness of Nananan's particular sensibility.

HEARTLESS BITCH

KIRIKO NANANAN

I WENT OUT PARTYING THE OTHER NIGHT. IT'S BEEN AWHILE YKNOW ANYWAY, I MET THIS YOUNGER GUY
COMBO
PIZZA
WHAT'S UP? WHAT HAPPENED?
HE GAVE ME THE IMPRESSION HE'D BEEN THROUGH A LOT. BEEN ON HIS OWN. HE LIVED IN A DECENT LOCATION.
TURNED OUT HE WAS A STUDENT AT ONE OF THOSE NICE COLLEGES.
SO YOU SPENT THE NIGHT WITH HIM?
I THOUGHT HE WAS KINDA CUTE.
JUST LISTEN TO ME
IT'S ONE THING TO LIVE OFF YOUR PARENTS WHILE YOU'RE A STUDENT...
IT'S ANOTHER TO HAVE THEM PAY THE RENT FOR A PRICEY PLACE AND BE A POSEUR. HE SAYS HE DOESN'T EVEN GO TO CLASS.
YKNOW HOW I'M NOT INTO SPOILED COLLEGE STUDENTS.

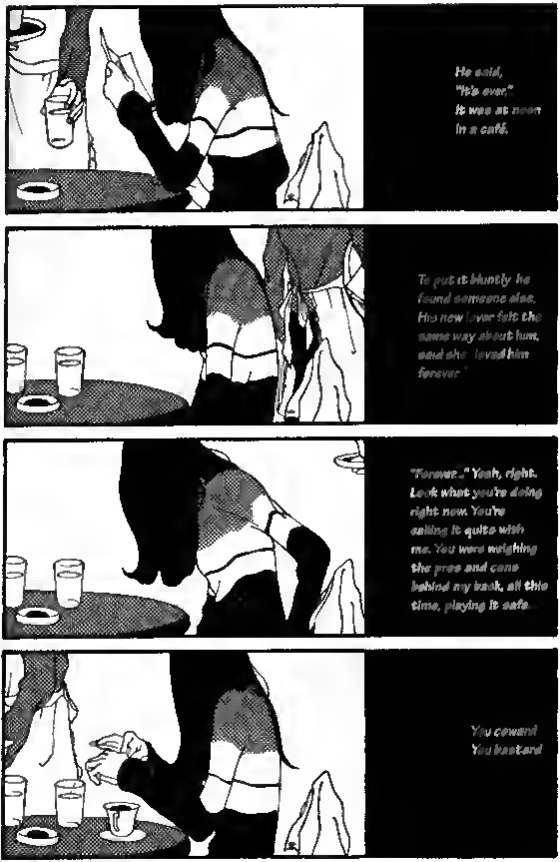
SO I WAS NOT INTO THIS...
...BUT YKNOW HE WAS CUTE AND I THOUGHT MAYBE IF I GOT TO KNOW HIM I'D FIND SOMETHING UNIQUE SO I STUCK AROUND
EXACTLY SO HE'S LEECHING OFF HIS PARENTS WHOVE WORKED THEIR BUTTS OFF HE DOESN'T GET ANY SLEEP BECAUSE HE'S TOO BUSY DICKING AROUND
AND HE SPENDS HIS MONEY ON CLOTHES, RIGHT?
CAFE
YOU WOULD NOT BELIEVE THE SINCERITY OF THIS KID
HE GOT ALL WORKED UP AND SAID 'I CANT BELIEVE YOURE CONFESSING THESE TERRIBLE THINGS TO ME YOU MUST REALLY TRUST ME'
WHAT WAS I GONNA SAY?
BUT WE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TO TALK ABOUT SO I CHATTED ABOUT BEING RAPED A LONG TIME AGO OR BEING THE STRIP POKER CHAMPION AT THAT LINGERIE HOSTESS BAR.
...
...I COULDN'T TELL HIM I TELL EVERYONE SO I JUST SAID 'YES, I DO'

THE FOURTH TIME I WENT TO HIS HOUSE WE WERE DRINKING AND ALL OF A SUDDEN HE BLURTS OUT "I'M SERIOUS ABOUT YOU."
UH, I'D LIKE A FOUR ROSE ON THE ROCKS.
AND HE CAME ON TO ME I WAS DRUNK SO I DIDN'T CARE I WAS UP FOR IT, YKNOW
YEAH YEAH.
IT WAS FINE UNTIL THEN THE PROBLEM WAS..
I WENT ALONG, PLAYING THE OLDER BABE SAYING "JUST THIS ONCE." ♡
I KNEW IT YOU GOTTA STOP SLEEPING AROUND LIKE THAT
..ME SUCKED IN BED
..I MEAN THE PITS.

GOD KNOWS WHERE HE LEARNED
"DOES THAT FEEL GOOD? ARE YOU CLOSE?"
I COULD HAVE TAUGHT HIM A THING OR TWO BUT I GOT SO TURNED OFF I JUST STARED AT THE GRAIN IN THE WOODEN CEILING...
INSTEAD OF MOVING BACK AND FORTH HE'S ROCKING SIDE TO SIDE IT FELT LIKE HE WAS USING MY BODY TO GET HIM SELF OFF
HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HE'S DOING. HE JUST KEEPS ON GROPING AROUND
SORRY MY HAND SLIPPED
AH, MAN
...TO THE POINT WHERE...
...THE MORE BORED I GET THE MORE THIS GUY GOES INTO OVERDRIVE...
SO

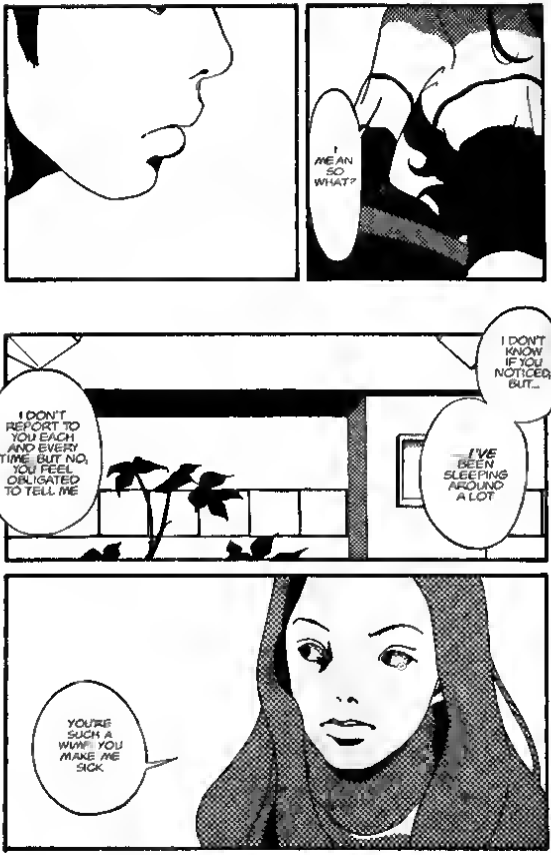
"THE TWO OF US CAN MAKE IT VANISH."
A BIG, LONELY HOLE!?!
...
HE SAYS, "THERE'S A BIG LONELY HOLE IN THIS ROOM."
AHA HA HA! I BET IT LEADS TO THE NINTH DIMENSION!
I WAS SPEECHLESS... COMPLETELY ABSOLUTELY SPEECHLESS.
COME ON, LET'S GET GOING.
WHAT A LOSER.
END

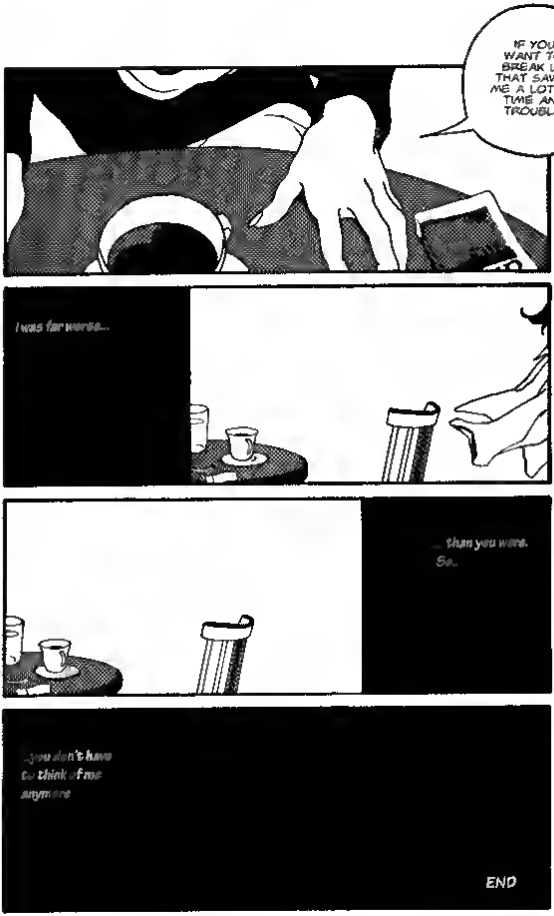
PAINFUL
LOVE


He said, "It's over." It was at noon in a café.
To put it bluntly he found someone else. His new lover felt the same way about him, and she loved him forever.
"Forever." Yeah, right. Look what you're doing right now. You're selling it quite well. You were weighing the pros and cons behind my back, all this time, playing it safe.
You coward You bastard

It's not as if he doesn't like me any more. He still feels for me. I can tell by the way he looks at me. After being together for a year and a half, I know that much.
It must have been hard for him to tell me. Come to think of it, he looks like he's lost weight.
Poor guy. Damn it. I still love him.

So I want him to suffer. But if he suffers then so do I
I really love him
Make sure she takes care of you
Make sure she takes care of you
Make sure she takes care of you.
SO WHAT?


I MEAN SO WHAT?
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU NOTICED, BUT...
I'VE BEEN SLEEPING AROUND A LOT
I DON'T REPORT TO YOU EACH AND EVERY TIME. BUT NO, YOU FEEL OBLIGATED TO TELL ME
YOU'RE SUCH A WUSS! YOU MAKE ME SICK.


IF YOU WANT TO BREAK UP THAT SAVES ME A LOT OF TIME AND TROUBLE
I was far worse...
...than you were. So..
...you don't have to think of me anymore
END

Shintaro Kago

Punctures

from *Comic Monsters by the Train Station* (Ota Publishing, 2009)

Shintaro Kago, born in 1969, made his debut with *Ueta No Sakanae* (The Great Space Strange) in the manga-alternative magazine *Comic Box*. Kago's art style closely resembles the sharp, detailed lines of Katsuhiro Otomo (my guess is that Kago used to be a passionate Otomo reader), but in terms of theme Kago reminds me more of Tomoto Nagata, who mainly drew for *pinku* (adult comic) magazines in the 70s and 80s, and artists like Suehiro Maruo, Masahiko Nakada, and Kotaro Ogashi. For these unfamiliar with these names, it may be difficult to picture the style I'm talking about, but "fashionable paranoia" may be a good term for the genre that sits in a genre~ fashionable~ referring to the atmosphere of the manga itself being cool, rather than the actual artwork looking cool for readers, the means that it is clearly separate from mainstream manga.

Punctures was part of a series of stories that originally appeared in the pornographic manga magazine *Cotton Comic*, published by Tokyo Sanseisha, but the *tankōbon* for it, *Kyoki Ekimae Gyokujotsu* (Comic Monsters by the Train Station), for some stories was published by Ota Publishing. This probably means that it wasn't categorized as "erotic" porn manga (see my *introduction* to Rankyo Kawashi). Actually, it's rather hard to believe that Kago's strange work somehow ended up in the prosperous porn comic format.

About the *ekimae* ("by the train station") part of the title. *Ekimae Hō Ie Bu Manki* was a popular series of comedy films from the '50s and '60s that were set in different locations, with titles such as *Kyoki Ekimae Ryokan* (Comic Inn by the Train Station). Strange feelings are conveyed in all the titles in Kago's *tankōbon* (the title of *Punctures* literally translated to *Punctures by the Train Station*), linking words like monsters," "exploitation," "excavation," and "punctures" with *ekimae*. While *ekimae* conveys warm, nostalgic feelings, the manga abounds with extreme sex, violence and abnormality. To avoid troubling the moral majority, we carefully considered our options and chose to publish *Punctures*. Let's make this clear: relatively speaking, this is one of Kago's milder works.

Another recent work of Kago's is called *Kagayaki' Ito-To-Aya-Ei-Ken* (Shine Bright The Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere). In this manga, set during World War II, Japanese women have become "human weapons." This is not a metaphor. Women have the lower half of their bodies exposed as human tanks, hoisting the enemy (namely, us, American) using faces and arms as projectile weapons. This manga deals with various sensitive issues such as historical interpretations of World War II and gender discrimination. However Kago's manga doesn't take a high-handed approach. Although, ultimately, that's up to the reader's interpretation.

Kago has gained a strong following showing for adult magazines like *Comic Hotmilk* and *Cotton Comic* as well as for cutting-edge magazines like *Erotics*. His manga are popular at the Comic Market conventions and, in addition, offers have been made to publish his manga in France.

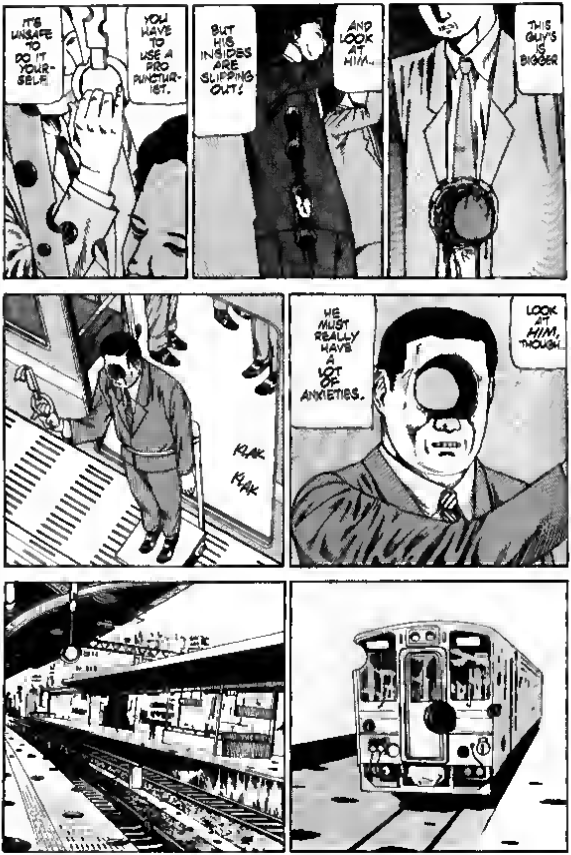
PUNCTURES

Shintaro Kago

50
51
52
53
54
55
PE-LEASE!!
56
HUMPH
EJACULATION AT MY 56TH ENTRANCE!
Good going good going
Now it's time for..
...my morning chores
PAT
RIGHT
PAT
RIGHT
PAT
LEFT
LEFT
PHEW!
RIGHT?
PAT
GLUG
GLUG
SO GOOD!
GOTTA HAVE THAT FIVE CARTONS OF MILK A DAY!
TODAY I'M GOING TO HAVE A WONDERFUL DAY AT WORK.
ONE TWO THREE..
WHAT?

IT'S ALL OVER!!
AAARGH!
I'M ONE BUTTON OFF.
IT'S BEST IF I PUNCH A FEW HOLES. THAT WAY I WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ANYMORE.
THUP THUP
...THESE HERE MIGHT HAVE SOME.
BUT
OH, NO.
LOOKS LIKE RAIN TO ME.
I DIDN'T HAVE A HOLE.
I HOPE THAT CONTOM I JUST USED
THUP THUP
BEST TO HAVE A FLAT NOW THAN TO HAVE ONE WHILE DRIVING.
BEST TO PUNCH A HOLE THAN WORRY IF IT'S LEAKING.
THERE MIGHT BE A HOLE IN THIS CARTON, TOO

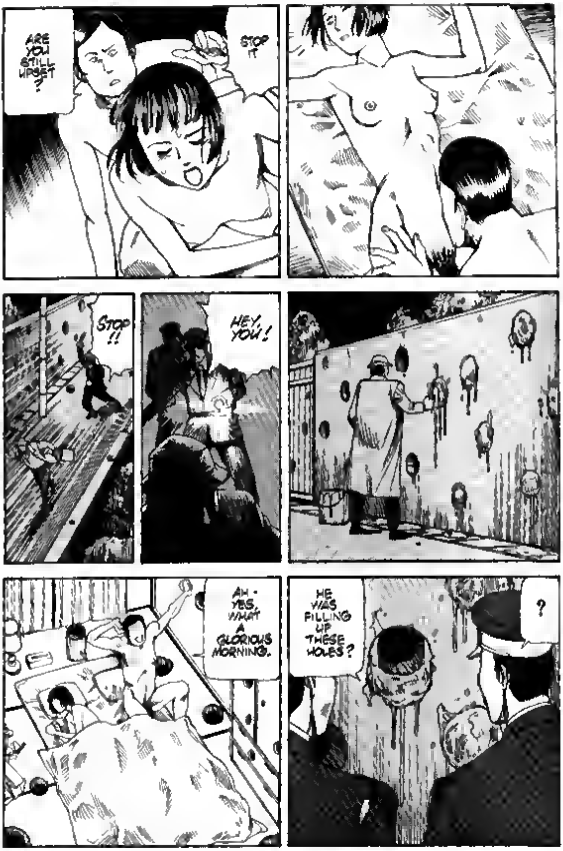
THAT'S GREAT.
I HAD ALL MY TEETH DRILLED SO I WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT CAVITIES ANYMORE
KLAKETA
YES, SO I WON'T HAVE TO WORRY I'LL GET INTO A CAR ACCIDENT
MR SANO, YOU'RE COMMUT. IND TODAY?
KLAKETA
THAT'S GOOD.
KLAKETA
INSTEAD OF WORRYING HOW SOMEONE'S UMBRELLA COULD POKE MY EYE OUT, I CHOSE TO REMOVE IT
AND YOU MR KARITA?
HA HA HA!
I HAD MY STOMACH PUNCTURED BEFORE GETTING AN ULCER.
WOW!
I WONDER WHAT HE'S WORRIED ABOUT
LOOK AT THAT GUY'S HAND
WELL SAID.
IT'S BEST TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR ANXIETIES.
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA


IT'S UNSAFE TO DO IT YOURSELF.
YOU HAVE TO USE A PRO PUNCTURIST.
BUT HIS INSIDES ARE SLIPPING OUT!
AND LOOK AT HIM...
HE?!
THIS GUY'S IS BIGGER
KLAK KLAK
WE MUST REALLY HAVE A LOT OF ANXIETIES.
LOOK AT HIM, THOUGH.

TRADING FIRM
HOW THOUGHTFUL.
I WAS WORRIED YOU MIGHT SPILL YOUR TEA ALL OVER YOUR DOCUMENTS.
I DID THAT, SIR.
HEY, THERE'S A HOLE IN MY DESK!
THANKS TO HIS HOLE I CAN SEE THE SCREEN.

SPLAT
PHEW! THANKS TO MY HOLES, THE TRAP DIDN'T GET ME...
SPRONG
AIEE!
I'M SO WORRIED THAT YOU MIGHT DROP THE KNIFE AND SCRATCH THE FLOOR...
HA! HA! HA!
HONEY, I'M HOME

ONCE YOU HAVE A HOLE IN YOUR FOOT, YOU'LL BE SAFE
I'M SO WORRIED YOU MIGHT STAB YOUR-SELF IN THE FOOT WITH YOUR KNIFE.
PAWNK
WHO'S THIS?
HE'S A PROFES-SIONAL PUNCTUR-IST.
PUNC-TURE-IST?
HEY, I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T REALIZE WOULD UPSET YOU SO MUCH.
BUT YOU'RE BETTER OFF THIS WAY.
IT WON'T HURT. YOU WON'T EVEN BLEED, I PROMISE.
NO! PLEASE, I DON'T WANT THAT!
...BUT NOW IT WON'T HURT.
YOU KNOW HOW WHEN I GET EXCITED I START BITING...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT BITING YOUR TONGUE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT PRICKING YOURSELF WITH YOUR NEEDLE.


ARE YOU STILL UPSET?
STOP IT
STOP !!
HEY, YOU!
AH - YES, WHAT A GLORIOUS MORNING.
HE WAS FILLING UP THESE HOLES?
?

WHAT'S THIS?
1
2
3
4
HMM?
I'M GOING TO EJACULATE ON MY 5TH ENTRANCE TODAY, TOO...
I HAD IT OPENED...
B-BUT WHY?
NOW I'M GOING TO BE ALL ANXIOUS TODAY!
AARGH!
PUH.
LEFT! RIGHT! LEFT! RIGHT!
AAARGH!
EVERYTHING'S FALLING APART!
MUST MAKE A HOLE, A HOLE!
OH...I'M WORRIED I'M GOING TO HIT MY HEAD AGAINST THE CORNER OF THIS PRESSER!
AGHH

AAH
I MIGHT TEAR MY EARDRUM WITH THIS EAR PICK...
WHILE I HAVE SOME THING IN MY EYE AN EARTHQUAKE MIGHT COME AND I MIGHT BITE OFF MY TONGUE ...NUHHH!
AGH !!
OH, I MIGHT STAB MY HAND ON...
I SHOULD HAVE...
KILLED ME!
I COULD TAKE A SHOWER, THINKING IT WAS WATER INSTEAD OF OIL AND THEN LIGHT MY CIGARETTE AND THEN...
Splat
lup
NOW I CAN LEAD A PEACEFUL LIFE FREE OF HOLES!
GOOD RIDDANCE.
tok
tok
tok

HM? THAT MAN OVER THERE IS FILLING HOLES TOO. I WONDER IF HE'S IN A SIMILAR SITUATION.
FIRST I'LL START BY FILLING UP THESE HOLES. HMM DE HMM
WE NEED TO FILL UP THE HOLES IN THE CITY!
MUH? BUT WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO...
PLEASE JOIN MY FIGHT!!
SO YOU LOST YOUR HUSBAND?
AND SO WE BECAME INTIMATE.
FOR THE REST OF THE WORLD!
WE MUST START A REVOLUTION...
IF WE DON'T RECOVER, OUR COUNTRY WILL ROT AWAY!
MODERN MAN HAS BECOME TOO FRAGILE!
-IM SO INSECURE
N NO HOLES HERE

BEFORE WE FILL UP THE CITY'S HOLES LET'S TAKE CARE OF YOURS
YES... MY HUSBAND DID THIS TO ME.
YOUR HANDS ARE FILLED WITH HOLES
YOU DISSIDENTS!!
STOP!!
UNTIL THEY'RE FILLED WE'LL STICK TO THIS.
HOW AWFUL. I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO A GOOD UNLICENSED DOCTOR.
ONE WEEK LATER HER HOLE WAS FINALLY FILLED!
I HAD A HEART ATTACK...
HEART TRANSPLANT?
JUST A MONTH AGO
NO, THIS WAS FROM A HEART TRANSPLANT.
HEY, YOU HAD A HOLE FILLED TOO?

44
45
46
47
48
49
50
HUH?
54 51
55 52
53

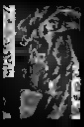
HUH?
SAY... DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR HEART CAME FROM?
HUH? WHAT'S WRONG?
56
UGH...
HE LEFT!!
THAT CAN'T BE... HE'S GOT MY HUSBAND'S HEART...
BUT THAT SHOULDN'T MEAN...
GOTTA HAVE THAT FIVE CARTONS OF MILK A DAY!!
AH YEAH!
I HEARD IT CAME FROM A SALARYMAN WHO LIT HIMSELF ON FIRE.
WELL, I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS, BUT...
IT'S ALL OVER!
I'M ONE BUTTON OFF!
WH-WHAT IS IT?
AAARGH!
OH NOTHING.
WHAT'S WRONG?

HE'S POSSESSED BY MY HUSBAND
THAT CAN'T BE... NO WAY...
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT
YES, NOW I FEEL MUCH BETTER
I'LL START THIS GLORIOUS MORNING OFF WITH SOME STRETCHING
ONE TWO ONE TWO
END

Makoto Aida

Mutant Hanako

Excerpted from *Mutant Hanako* (ABC Publishing, 1999)



Makoto Aida is a "modern artist" (namely a "real" artist), born in 1965. He and modern/manga artist Yasuo Kinoshita are members of a group called the "Shôwa 40 Club" (Shôwa is a Japanese era years Shôwa 40 = 1965.) I've heard of *Mutant Hanako*, but never actually seen it. That is, I've never seen it as it originally appeared at one of Aida's art exhibits, in a limited-edition version of 300 bound copies, printed on poor quality newsprint, and only available to guests who attended the exhibit.

However, as you see, it has been reprinted. The story is unpremeditated and complemented by an art style that can be described as incomplete. The panels have been laid out, but the drawings are done freehand in pencil. The methods of what we know of as manga have not been followed through to the end; i.e., the pencil sketches haven't been inked or toned over. In spite of this, *Mutant Hanako* has caused quite a stir. Why?

It must be because, as Aida wrote in the afterword to *Mutant Hanako*, "The vulgar, in the broad sense of the word, including the pornographic, is the weapon and true essence of manga."

Although I completely agree with this statement, I often find myself swayed by technical mastery, whether in artwork or storytelling. However, manga are absolutely not high art. They are entertainment for the masses to enjoy lightly, and manga when they achieve the level of great art, should still (and merely) be an extension of that. Aida has created numerous works as an fine artist. On top of that, he's a hammered one as his vision of what manga are, as should be. And we are overwhelmed. Beyond the reality, words aren't necessary.

Moreover, it isn't necessary for manga to justify themselves by trying to teach between right and wrong, or to comment on war, history, or ideology. *Mutant Hanako* purely conveys that to do so is nonsense. To put it in that there is no misunderstanding for those that have not directly experienced war, war can, in a certain sense, possess a romantic aspect to it. This is proven everyday by the endless number of fictitious wars and armies that appear in films, novels, manga, anime, and video games and are aesthetically admired by postwar generations. If any of those people who love science-fiction and fantasy war were to read *Mutant Hanako*, they would be shocked. That should be obvious. No if someone wasn't shocked, you could say that person was dense.

Aida says that as a boy, he wanted to become a manga artist. He wasn't able to, and ended up becoming a fine artist. *Mutant Hanako* incorporates his push to become a manga artist, his desire for revenge for not becoming one, and the ambivalent feelings that resulted. As most people consider fine art highbrow, and manga in comparison lowbrow and vulgar, I believe it takes courage for an "artist" to make such a statement. I believe I'm not alone in hoping that Aida will continue to create manga in the future.

by
MAKOTO
AIDA
MUTANT
HANAKO

I gotta get out of here with Junichi
Little Boy is loaded.
What should I do
U.S.FORCE
ENOLA GAY
Enola Gay will leave in one minute
Huh??
U.S.FORCE
I'll hide in here.
U.S.FORCE
We'll soon be over Hiro-shima
ENOLA GAY
Wait!
Bullshit!
You gotta be patient! First Hiroshima, then Nagasaki. We'll destroy one city at a time then Japan will lose.
U.S.FORCE
Is that all?
Approx-imately 250,000 Well, that's including deaths from radiation sickness
How many Japs will we kill with this new bomb?
It's Show-Time!

You have no right to take their lives!
There are so many innocent people, including the young and elderly in Hiroshima
Please don't bomb those cities!
U.S. Fcs
Fire!
Yeah!
Open the hatch
Search for the target.
We've reached Hiro-shima
How Sad!
How terrible!
I hate them
I hate America!
PIGS!
BEASTS!
DEVILS!

Look at that big cock of smoke!
We can fuck the shit again!
Three days after
What's That?
Stop crying, Kenta. Crying can't make Yukiko come back!
In the suburbs of Hiroshima—

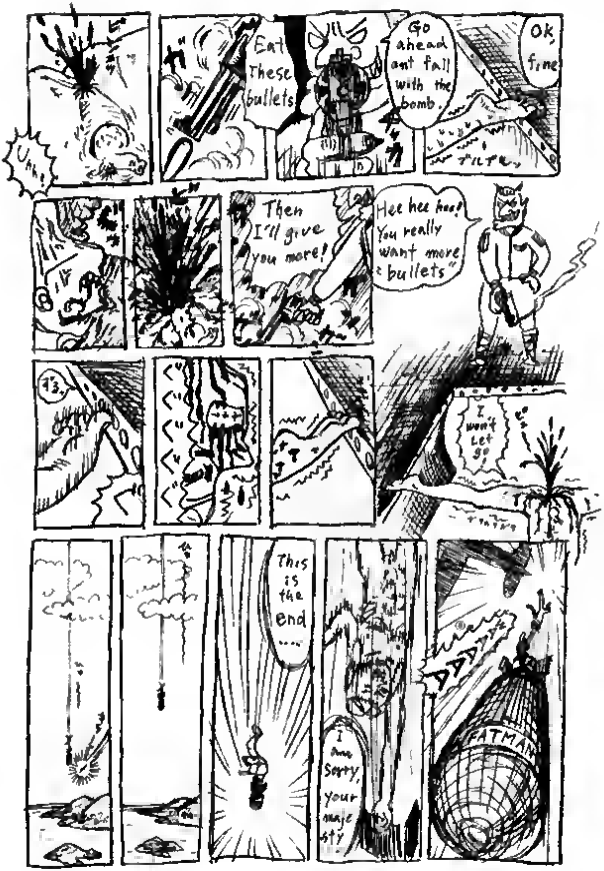
This must be some kind of coincidence that we found the body. We'll let it die in peace with Yukiko.
We will take that baby too, Keita.
OK. put on some more firewood and we'll cremate them
Wake up, Hana-ko
Haaaaaidaaa Haaaaaidaaa
You must be hallucinating
This body moved, daddy
It's time to fight!
Hanako, it's time to wake up
You will be reborn as MUTANT HANAKO!

This kimono fit me perfectly.
Yukiko!
Sister!
Yukiko was a gentle and sweet girl. She took good care of Kenta in place of his mother, who died a long time ago
Oh the more I look at you, the more you really look like Yukiko
Kenta and I had been in a neighboring town working for the government.
Three days ago
Don't look at me, dad!
when we hurried home
Only Yukiko was affected by the atomic bomb

My... hair!
What's the matter, sis?
What the hell happened?
Face this way!
Don't look at me!
and then died
She suffered and suffered
During those two days
No Way
Yukiko's hair moved by itself!
How terrible...
From this day onward, you must be my sister!
Sister!
The hair is shining!

This is Enola Gay. We will be over Nagasaki in ten minutes.
Zaaa Zaaa Zaaa
What's that noise
But I can't. I have an important mission I must carry out.
Kenta, I would love to stay here as your sister.
Don't be sad, Kenta. Yukiko is with me. Still living inside me.
Thank you for your kindness, father I am going to destroy Yukiko's enemy.
No! We can't have another Atomic bomb!
Here I go!
Sis!
We will be over Nagasaki in One minute.
Yukiko is still alive...
Ah. I'm losing my power...
I've got to hurry! I won't make it.

We are over Nagasaki now.
Oh my God!
What was that horrible hallucination?
Fire!
NO!!
Open the hatch
Ready to fire
Go check the hangar
?
It won't fire
What?
?
I'll never let this go!
Shit!
You son of a bitch!


Uh...!
Eat These bullets
Go ahead and fall with the bomb
Ok, fine
Then I'll give you more!
Hee hee hee! You really want more bullets"
I won't let go
This is the end....
I'm sorry, your majesty
FATMAN

How strange! When I touch Junichi, I am filled with energy.
You'll be all right!
Is you. Hana-ko?
Junichi
Huh?!
Arake beach
Junichi, Please wait for me here.
Are you sure you released it?
I wonder what happened to the bomb.
I'm sending this bomb back!
Where are my clothes?
The girl!
A ghost?
Of course! I dropped the A-bomb along with that Jap!
Hey
What's that?!
Kill her again!
No way!
It's ....

Hm?
The bullets won't hit her!
This is yours
Please take it back
Ok, one more

Ugh
You are cured
This is the last one
Oh!
Erection
Thank you
Ahh
I'm coming
NO
Here, put this on
Hanako! I don't suppose
what!

I'm sorry about what I said about calling you a Prostitute. It's the one who should be ashamed.
Kan-ni-ngu
No, Kan
Hmm so Sanichi?
Junichi, without you, Nagasaki would have been destroyed
Junichi, you are the chosen one
I'm sure that you are the chosen one
Hmmm
again, I am filled with power when I touch Junichi
oops!
No, I didn't meant that!
I slept with those devils I am not worthy of you
I'm sorry
We are too young to sleep together. Besides, now is not the time
I love you, Hama-ko!
Me too..
I...

There is no time. Come Here Now!
The Chosen ones!
Your Majesty!
I love you, Junichi!!
But How do we get to your palace?
Yes.
Let's go Junichi
Don't worry Just pass through the shining gate.
The Imperial Palace
We're fleating!

I can't, you majesty. I've never looked at you directly.
Both of you, look at me.
Hamako must sleep with a pure Japanese man.
Because of these poisons. She cannot reach her full power yet.
Poisons of America Still remain in Hamako's body.
Listen to me, Junichi.
I-I'm just worried that I can't satisfy you.
Don't be silly! You know how I feel about you Hamako.
Junichi, please purify me. I'm not a virgin. So you may not want to make love to me, but plase do it for our nation.
She requires purification. You, Junichi, are the only one who can purify Hamako.
Wonderful. I've prepared this holy place for you.
Junichi, purification is a holy ceremony. Don't confuse it with western lust.
I understand! I will go for it!!
Fine. Mutual understanding is very important for purification.
It doesn't matter. I'm glad to hear your real reason for hesitating.

天照大神
天照大神
I leave it entirely to you
Me too
スル…
Oh, Tunichi…
Hanako
I love you!
May I make love to you?
I love you…
BGM: Japanese court music

4 second
3 second
2 second
1 second
From
She's right It has nothing to do with whether she came or not.
You still have a mission to carry out.
No, you're wrong! Look at me! My body has matured like my elder sister's!
This proves purification was (success-ful)
Don't commit harakiri Junichi!
I know you never really cl. max! Purifca-tion failed! I must die for my failure

Yes, my Transformation is complete, your majesty.
Ha!
Ha!
Ha!
Ha!
Ha!
Ha!
Her hairstyle has become a mixture of Yukiko's and Junko's.
I'm leaving Junich
I'll leave at once!
No!
America has begun to attack the mainland of Japan.
Well, go then!
Don't touch our sacred country!
Beasts!
Near Sumida
Hanako.
I wonder if her true power was actually awakened?

* This is turning out just like an anti-war movie...

So the devils are beyond this hill!
Who are you?
I am...
Wait, leave this to me!
Here they come!
Please give me your bamboo sword.
OK
MUTANT HANAKO

Die, Devils!
Your sister's worried about you. Go back to her at once!

It's Judgment day!
THE END
..FOR NOW!!!

Benkyo Tamaoki

Editor Woman

Selected from *Sex 2000* (Innovation, 2000)

I first discovered the manga artist with the odd pen name Benkyo Tamaoki through his first collected works, *Love Hen* (Yenbooks Books), published in 1995. In Japanese, the word *benkyo* means to study or learn. Usually porn manga artists have really crazy pseudonyms, and I picked up *Love Hen* because of the humorous contrast between the porn manga and the artist's stiff pen name.

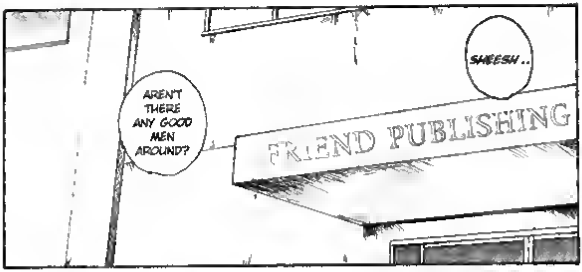
My impression of Tamaoki at first was similar to my first impression of the very unique manga artist Moeko Yamamoto, whose theme *Till Tomorrow* recently appeared in English in *PULP*. Yamamoto was debuted as a porn artist under the pseudonym Te Maruyama. My impression of both Tamaoki and Yamamoto is difficult to explain. Their works are not just porn manga that place emphasis on sex. Their characters are well constructed and the characters are properly described. They produce high quality manga that also happen to be porn.

Most readers of porn manga are male adults who purchase such manga to use for masturbation. So in the world of porn manga, if a manga isn't "useful," it doesn't sell. And the more "useful" a manga is, the further it gets from the opportunity to move into a mainstream manga magazine.

Tamaoki is one of those porn manga artists who can maintain high levels of artistic quality along with high levels of usefulness. For example, after reading a manga that emphasizes meticulous, you're usually left with boring expressions of sexual descriptions, but Tamaoki's manga are different. In *Editor Woman*, there are realistic depictions of the main character's job, her thoughts on the editing/production process and the people around her. And the somehow refreshing ending. This conveys a greater sense of reality and should leave a more lasting impression on the reader. That's why in this manga that does not have a great deal of pornographic depictions, these other elements truly come alive.

Most porn mangas are targeted at male readers, but no matter how much they're supposed to reflect hidden male instincts, readers will have to acknowledge that reality and have left far behind when women who are raped end up enjoying it or if there are hit and remain unharmed. So how are Tamaoki's mangas? The characters are portrayed with overwhelming realism and, at times, sad heat. You can understand why Tamaoki has many female readers.

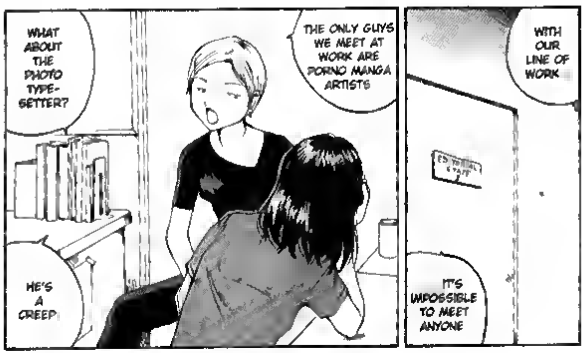
It might be argued that the thriving porn manga genre constitutes the only real "underground" left in manga today. Then again, Tamaoki's *Kokiki Pure* (Lovers' Play) is now being serialized in Kodansha's very popular manga magazine, *Young Magazine Uppers*. Two exhibitor have finally come out. That proves Tamaoki's talent as a manga artist, but it's also refreshing to see a new porn manga in a mainstream magazine. Tamaoki adds, "I want to create porn manga that convey a feeling of everyday life. In America, check out my *Sin/Fiddler* series published by Eros Comix (www.eroscomix.com)." In addition, Tamaoki's manga are coming out in German translation.

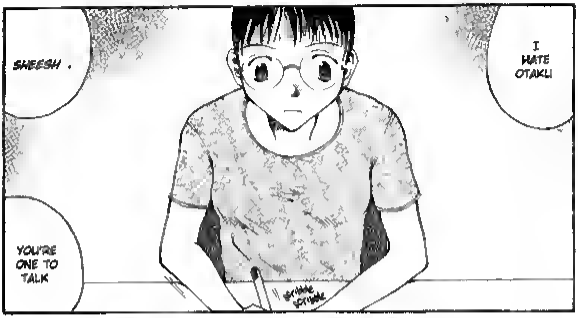


編集女

EDITOR WOMAN

BENKYO TAMAOKI


WHAT ABOUT THE PHOTO TYPE-SETTER?
THE ONLY GUYS WE MEET AT WORK ARE PORNO MANGA ARTISTS
HE'S A CREEP
WITH OUR LINE OF WORK
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO MEET ANYONE


SHEESH.
I HATE OTAKU!
YOU'RE ONE TO TALK
GRUMBLE GRUMBLE

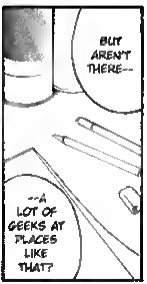
GIVE ME A BREAK!
OR WAS THAT BECAUSE YOU'RE A "MUSIC LOVER"?
I'M JUST GOING OUT WITH MY FRIENDS

WELL, YOU'RE THE ONE OUT CLUBBING EVERY NIGHT--
PROWL-ING FOR A GUY

HEY, YOU SHUT UP!!
SCRAMB

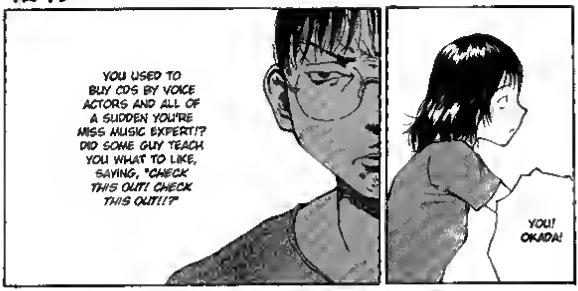
GOOD MORNING! ♡
tmp!

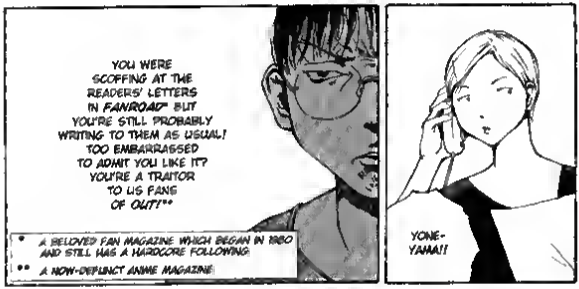
HELLO, THIS IS FRIEND PUBLISH-ING
TRAP
TOOT!
YES, COULD YOU HOLD FOR A MOMENT PLEASE?
WHY, HELLO.

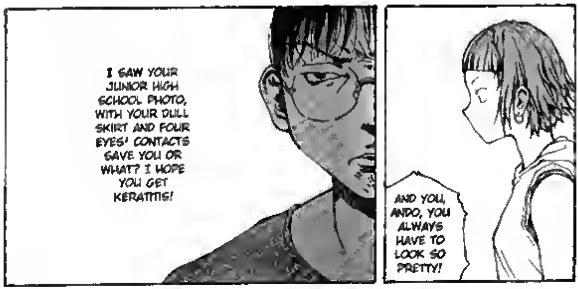

BUT AREN'T THERE--
--A LOT OF GEEKS AT PLACES LIKE THAT?

HOPE IT DOESN'T LOOK TOO WEIRD
I WAS BOLD AND HAD IT CUT SHORT
WHAT'S UP WITH THAT HAIRCUT?
MORN-ING...
...
...
HOW'S THAT RECORD I LOANED YOU?
OH-- WELL...
WHAT?
HUH?
FLOP
HEY, MIMA

WHAT'D YOU LOAN HER?
THAT'S GOOD
IT'S NICE!
TO THE WORLD OF MUSIC
I JUST WANT TO OPEN UP MIMA.
AHHH!! PSSY-
MAYBE YOU SHOULDN'T FORCE IT ONTO OTHERS THOUGH, HUH?
THAT'S YOUR THING, HUH?
SOME WEIRD-ASS '70S SOUNDTRACK
AHHH!!
PSSY.
YOU TWO!
GET BACK TO WORK
LEAVE ME ALONE!


YOU USED TO BUY CDS BY VOICE ACTORS AND ALL OF A SUDDEN YOU'RE MISS MUSIC EXPERT!? DID SOME GUY TEACH YOU WHAT TO LIKE, SAYING, "CHECK THIS OUT! CHECK THIS OUT!!"?
YOU! OKADA!


YOU WERE SCOFFING AT THE READERS' LETTERS IN FANROAD* BUT YOU'RE STILL PROBABLY WRITING TO THEM AS USUAL! TOO EMBARRASSED TO ADMIT YOU LIKE IT? YOU'RE A TRAITOR TO US FANS OF OLD!**
* A BELOVED FAN MAGAZINE WHICH BEGAN IN 1980 AND STILL HAS A HARDCORE FOLLOWING.
** A NOW-DEFUNCT ANIME MAGAZINE.
YONE-YAMA!!


I SAW YOUR JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL PHOTO, WITH YOUR DULL SKIRT AND FOUR EYES' CONTACTS SAVE YOU OR WHAT? I HOPE YOU GET KERATITIS!
AND YOU, ANDO, YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO LOOK SO PRETTY!

WHAT A LOSER... I HAVEN'T EVEN HAD A HANDFUL OF MEN JUST ONE FINGER.
IS IT A CRIME TO BE THIS UNATTRACTIVE? WHAT'S MY SENTENCE? GO AHEAD AND BANISH ME TO SOME ISLAND!
TRIPLE HANDICAP! I'M HELEN KELLER "WATER, DOCTOR SULLIVAN!"
I'M UGLY... I HAVE NO SENSE OF STYLE AND I'M AN OTAKU
I'M THE FIRST TO ADMIT. I'M ENVIOUS
SQUIK
I'M GOING TO GO PICK UP AN INSTALL-MENT
MR. YOSHI-DA...
SORT OF GOOD LOOK-ING
OH, SUGAI, HE'S ALL RIGHT.
I'LL BE BACK AT FOUR.
SUGAI.
WHOSE?

...COMPARED TO THE OTHERS
THAT IS...
VR-EEP
TUMP! TUMP! TUMP!
YES, YES, I'M COMING.
205
SUGA!
VR-EEP
WH-- WHO IS IT
VR-EEP

WHOA--!
JUMP
YOU REEK OF ALCOHOL!
URRG!
WHOA!
HELLO♡
IS THAT--MIMA?
FWOWOM
IT'S ONLY FOUR IN THE AFTERNOON! IT'S STILL WORK!!--
B-BUT WHY ARE YOU SO DRUNK?
I'M HERE TO PICK UP YOUR ASSIII-GNMENT

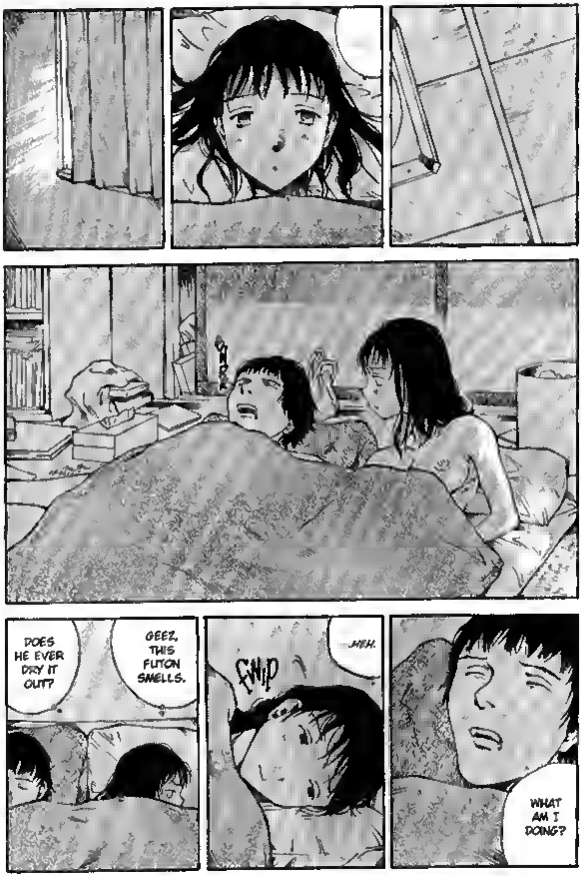
N-NOW WHAT?
SER TOLG
URGH!
I SURREN-DER! I SURREN-DER!
fwip
fwip
WHO ARE YOU!? YOU'RE JUST A PORNO MANGA ARTIST!
SHUT THE FUCK UP!!
I..
I DON'T
YOU'RE BEING
ABSOLUTELY INCOHERENT!
YOUR WORK?
DO YOU LIKE
I HATE.
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE
DON'T TELL ME YOU DO, DO YOU?
hmmm
WELL AT TIMES IT CAN BE

I'M SICK OF THIS.
HEY...
HEY MIMA?
..!
...?
...I'M JUST SO...
...SICK AND TIRED OF THIS
FIP
GET A GRIP...
...ON YOUR-SELF!
TUCC
MIMA...
MWUH!
LIKE THIS... AND THAT!!
AIEEEE!
FWIP!
YOU'RE A MAN! JUST SHUT UP AND MAKE A MOVE ON ME!
SWIP

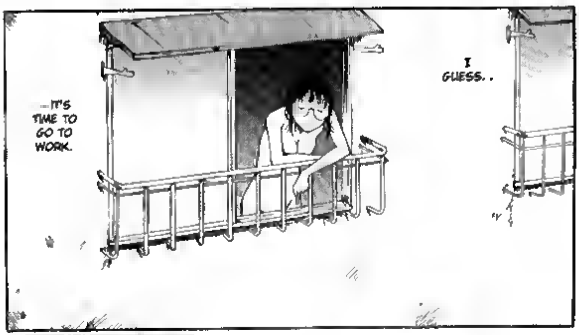
I'VE HARDLY TOUCHED YOU AND YOU'RE ALL WET
KINDA SMELLS THOUGH
NO--
PUCH
WOW. MINA.
FP
FP
MMM
MMM ♡
KRI
YOU KNOW MAYBE
YOU SHOULD FORGET ABOUT YOUR TROUBLES, MUH?
PUCH
MMM
AH
HA HA. SORRY I'M TALKING TOO MUCH
IT'S AN OCCUPA-TIONAL DISEASE
MMM
MMM.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SO
TINK TINK
I MIGHT BE TIGHT.
FWICH
HMM LET'S SEE

AHH! AH- AHH!!
thump
flip
thump thip thip
thap
thap
slip
slip
thap
thap
MM... AHH!!
SHMP SHMP
SHMP SHMP SHMP
AHI AHH AHH
MM... AHH
AHEE!! AHH!
thap
AH AH AHH!
flip flip
MMM
TUCK!
thap
LOOK HOW—
flip
...WET YOU ARE—
gash
BOW!
BOW! BOW!
O— OH! AHH!
GRPP GRP

AH AH... NNN!
PLISH
PLSH!
AHH...
THP THP THP
AH AH AH! ♡
AHH!
AH...! E-FEELS SO G--
THP
THP
NNNHH!
OH... YES... AHHH! ♡
SHMP SHMP SHMP SHMP SHMP
hmg!
PSH
PLSH
YESSS! AHH!
HAAA...!
SHP THMP
THMP
THMP THMP
OH... NO...!
AAAHH!


DOES HE EVER DRY IT OUT?
GEEZ, THIS FUTON SMELLS.
SNIP
...MEH.
WHAT AM I DOING?

LET'S SEE
FLIP
ZHOOP
SHFF
SHFF



THE END

Usamaru Furuya

Palepoli

Selected from *Palepoli* (Seiunsha, 1997)

Referring to his creative process, Usamaru Furuya calls himself "omnivorous and capricious." His path to manga was unusual, to say the least: he studied sculpture and abstract three-dimensional figures in art school, and afterwards he even became involved with *butoh* dance and experimented through body movement. Ultimately, though, he ended up selecting manga as his chosen mode of self-expression. He made his debut as a manga artist with *Palepoli*, which was serialized in *Garo* beginning in 1994. At the time, Furuya was working as editor of that magazine.

Palepoli goes beyond the framework of standard four-panel manga and varies its structure in new ways. Actually, Furuya knew nothing of conventional manga styles and myths when he started *Palepoli*. As a result, he created something that bore little similarity to other manga. Furuya notes that he selects his subject matter and methods with clear and precise intentions. I find it not merely rare for a manga artist to do this deliberately.

While *Palepoli* was being serialized in *Garo*, Furuya was hired to draw for a major *seinen* magazine: *Young Sunday*. Until then, he'd been creating freely through *Garo*, a magazine which respects artistic integrity above all else. At the time, I was afraid that the quality of his work would suffer. It had happened to many other manga artists who came out of *Garo* and went on to larger magazines. *Short Cuts* (a gag manga about twenty high school girls currently being serialized in English in *PULP*) was to appear in *Young Sunday* and the process of creating it would include restrictions largely based on commercial reasons; furthermore, manga published in major magazines tend to reflect not only the intentions of their artists, but the opinions of their editors and publishers.

In other words, working for a magazine like *Young Sunday* would mean reducing his creative freedom in exchange for a higher salary. However, Furuya notes with laughter: "I considered it a chance to draw manga under such restrictions. Doing it the way inside it fun. And how as he would, he based most masterpiece after masterpiece in the conventional magazines. And Furuya a reputation as an innovative manga artist remains without peer.

This is a digression, but when *Palepoli* was made into a *tankōbon*, Furuya and I discussed everything from the binding to the printing process itself. Everything about the book was deliberately chosen. That book meant a lot to me personally, because it was the last book I worked on as an editor for Seiunsha. The book is now being printed as a softcover edition. Personally, I find this unfortunate, but I imagine Furuya feels that doing a new cover for *Palepoli* is an inevitable step in his growth as an artist.

A message to American readers from Usamaru Furuya: "I've heard that 95% of America is made up of anthropocentric and passionate Christians who deny the theory of evolution. Could this be a misconception on my part? I think it probably is. I think there are a great many misconceptions between Americans and Japanese. If only we could overcome these through manga."

"Palepoli"

Class 2
3rd Grade

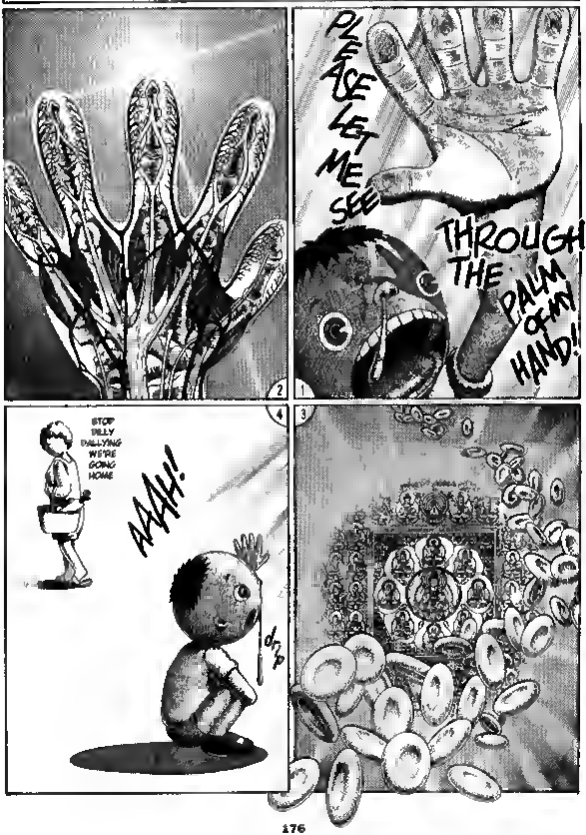
Usamaru Furuya

The Passion
Jesus!
Stag Beetle!
2
1
4
3
Golgotha.
This guy's pretty weak, where'd you find him?
GO! GO! GO!

The Dog

NANA!
YOU'RE NANA, RIGHT?
scratch scratch scratch
KREEK
2
1
4
3
ARF.
HOW ABOUT SOME SUGAR WITH YOUR COFFEE?
WE REALIZED SHE HAD BEEN TRAINED
WE THOUGHT HER REHABILITATION INTO NORMAL DAILY LIFE WAS SUCCESSFUL UNTIL—
THE KIDNAPPER WAS FOUND AND OUR LOVELY DAUGHTER CAME HOME AFTER A TWO YEAR ABSENCE

Takashi Glimpses the Mystic Body



Machiko, A Woman in Despair

The Creaking Night

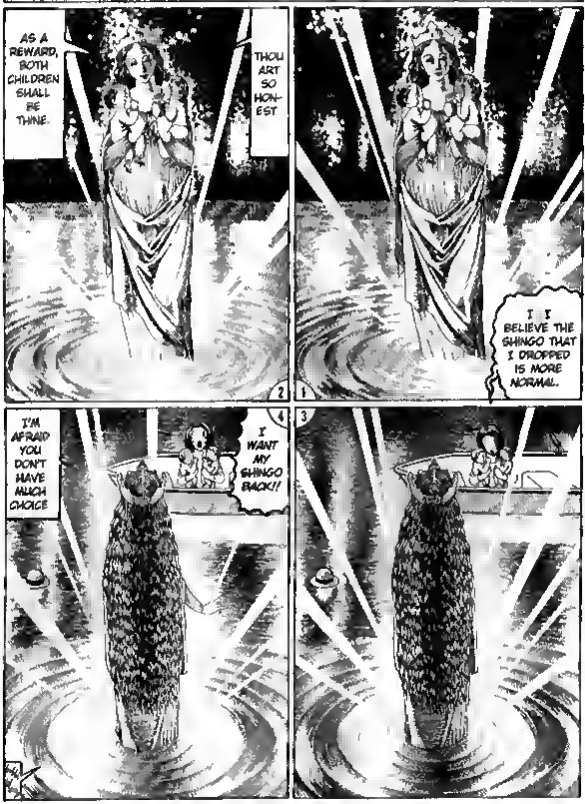
The Mask Maker's Husband

MY HUSBAND HAS ABDUCTED ANOTHER GIRL, TAKING HER INTO THE ANNEX
1
HIS ACTIONS PAIN ME.
EVERY NIGHT HE GOES THERE
2
THIS GIRL IS FOUR-TEEN. WHY, IT'S A CRIME
I'LL PRE-TEND I DON'T KNOW ABOUT IT...
3
BUT I WISH HE WOULDN'T USE MY MERCHAN-DISE. THAT'S ALL I WISH
I MEAN, LOOK AT HOW THEY MAKE IT LOOK LIKE FUN
4

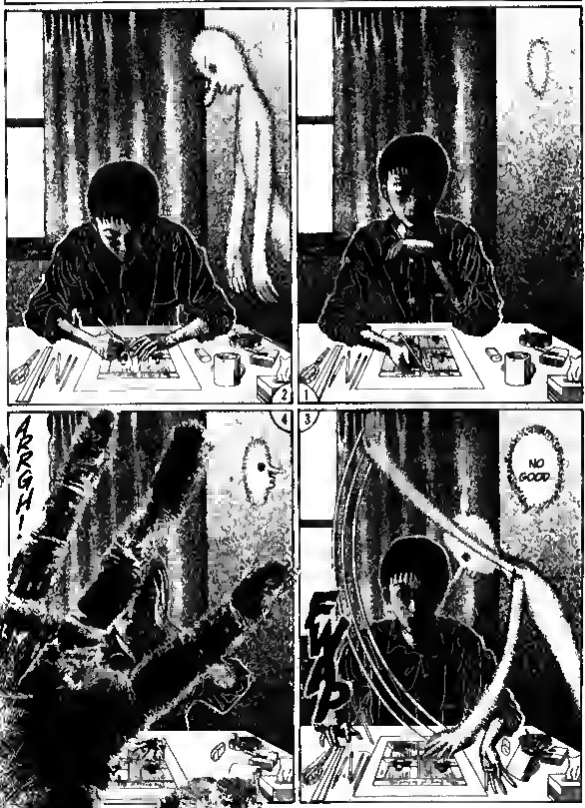
Like a Goddess

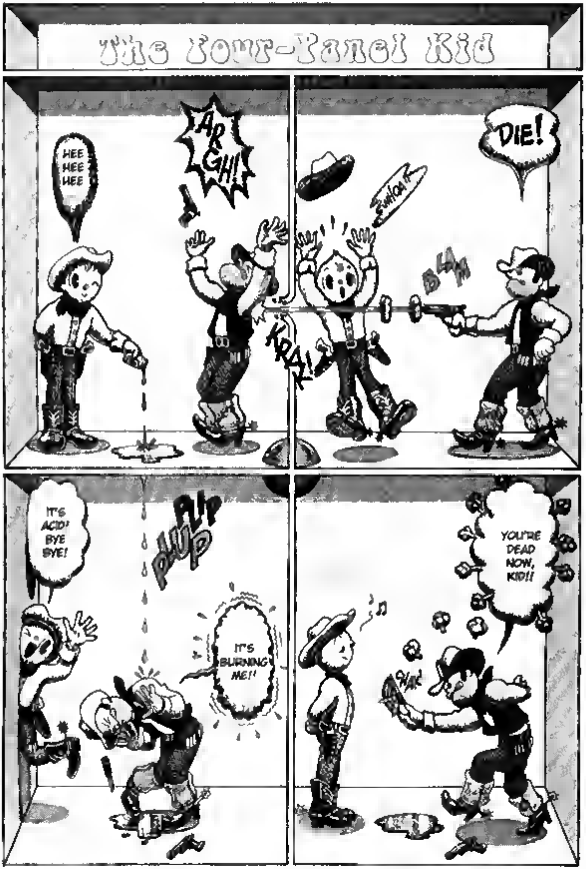
SHINGO!!
MY POOR BABY!!
1
2
3
A RAPIST AND SERIAL KILLER WHO DISMEMBERS MANY WOMEN? KNOWN AS "SHINGO THE CUTTER", HE WILL BE EXECUTED AT THE TENDER AGE OF 35
WHICH CHILD HAST THOU LOST? DOST THOU MEAN SHINGO THE ONE WHO WILL GROW UP TO BE
4
OR PERHAPS THOU MEANST SHINGO THE PERVERT
WHO WILL ABDUCT CHILDREN, MAKE BACKPACKS OUT OF THEIR SKIN, AND WEARING ONE NAKED, GO TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AT NIGHT?

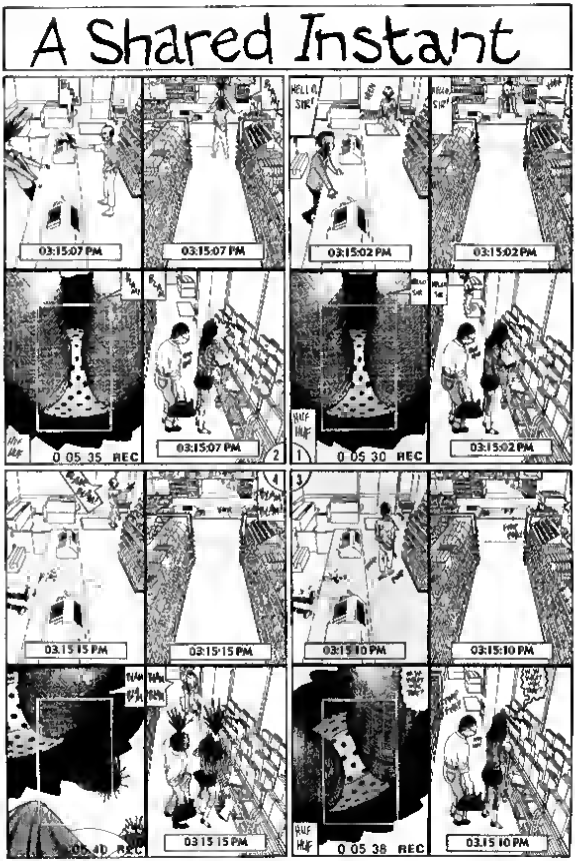
The Reward of Honesty

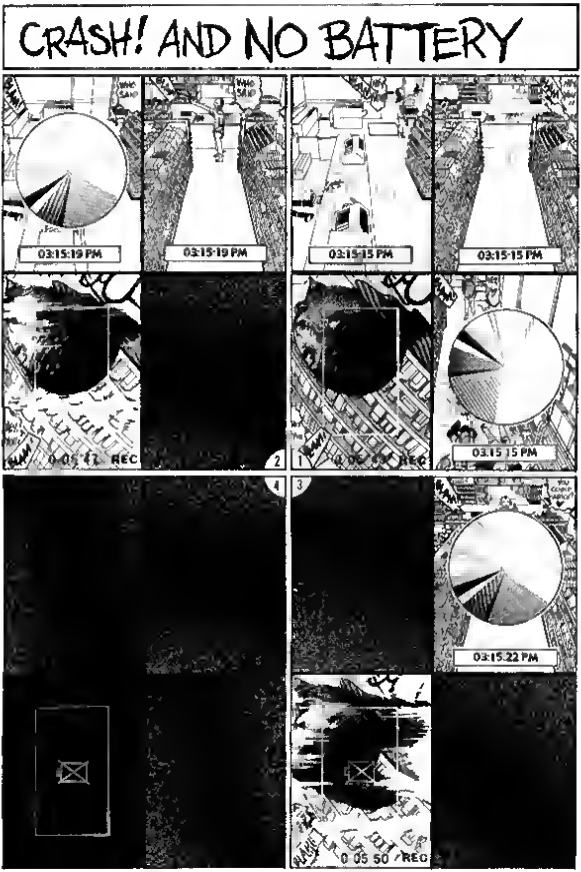

AS A REWARD, BOTH CHILDREN SHALL BE THINE.
THOU ART SO HONEST
I I BELIEVE THE SHINGO THAT I DROPPED IS MORE NORMAL.
2
1
I'M AFRAID YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE
I WANT MY SHINGO BACK!!
4
3

The Fiend of Rejections

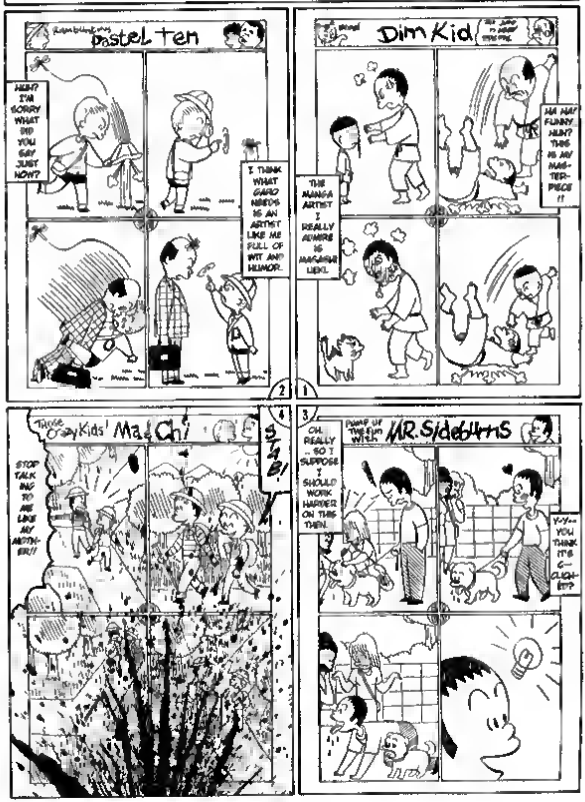



The Four-Panel Kid
HEE HEE HEE
AAR GH!!
DIE!
SWISH
BLAM
KRAK!
IT'S ACID! BYE BYE!
PLUP
IT'S BURNING ME!!
YOU'RE DEAD NOW, KID!!
PHIK!

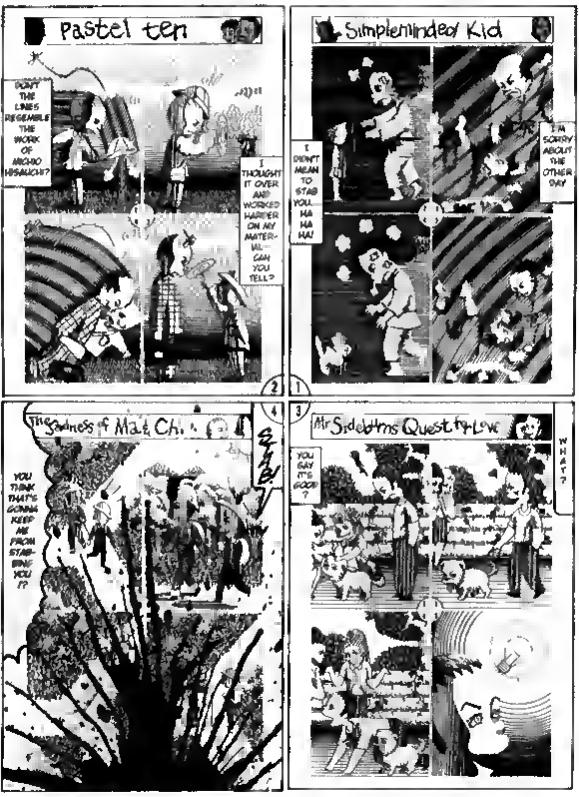

A Shared Instant
03:15:07 PM
03:15:07 PM
HELLO SIR!
03:15:02 PM
03:15:02 PM
0 05 35 REC
03:15:07 PM
2
0 05 30 REC
03:15:02 PM
1
03:15:15 PM
03:15:15 PM
3
03:15:10 PM
03:15:10 PM
03:15:15 PM
0 05 38 REC
03:15:10 PM


CRASH! AND NO BATTERY
03:15:19 PM
03:15:19 PM
03:15:15 PM
03:15:15 PM
03:15:15 PM
03:15:22 PM
0 05 47 REC
0 05 50 REC
1
2
3
4

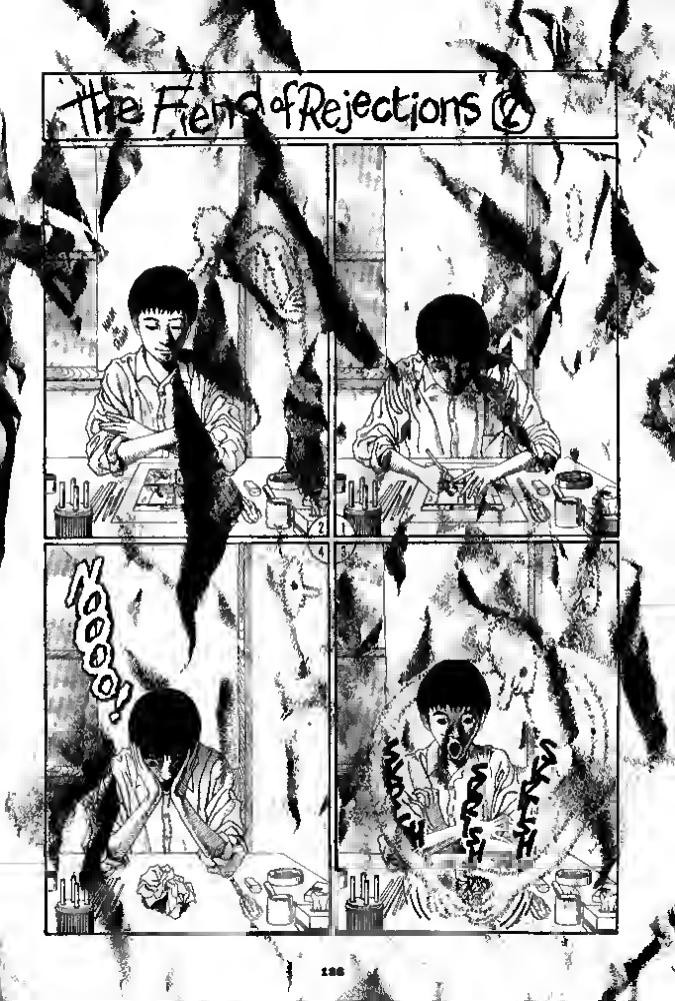
GARO - THE WAY of Manga - Early Edition

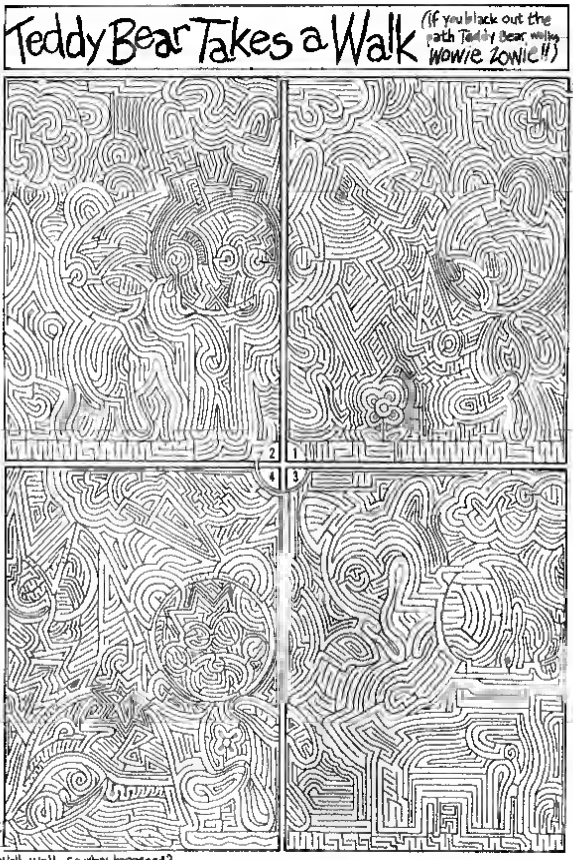

Pastel Ten
HUH? I'M SORRY WHAT DID YOU SAY JUST NOW?
I THINK WHAT GARO NEEDS IS AN ARTIST LIKE ME FULL OF WIT AND HUMOR.
Dim Kid
THE MANGA ARTIST I REALLY ADMIRE IS MASAMUNE UEKI.
HA HA!! FUNNY, HUH? THIS IS MY MASTERPIECE !!
Those Crazy Kids' Ma & Chi
STOP TALK ING TO ME LIKE MY MOTHER!!
OH, REALLY ... SO I SUPPOSE I SHOULD WORK HARDER ON THE THEN.
Those Wild Mr. Sidebiths
Y-Y-... YOU THINK IT'S C-CLICHÉ!?

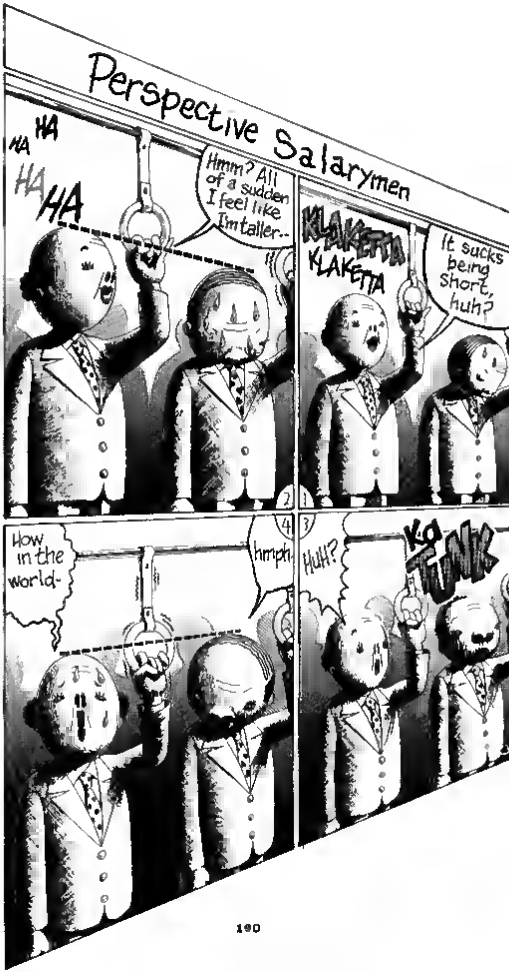
GARO - THE WAY of Manga - Late Edition

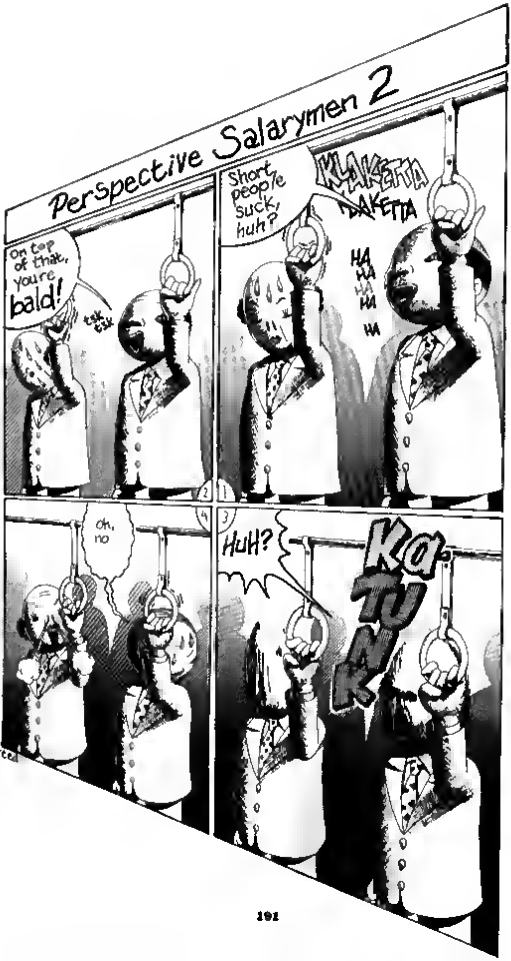

Pastel ten
DON'T THE LINES RESEMBLE THE WORK OF MICHIO HISAUCHI?
I THOUGHT IT OVER AND WORKED HARDER ON MY MATERIAL— CAN YOU TELL?
2
Simpleminded Kid
I DIDN'T MEAN TO STAB YOU... HA HA HA!
I'M SORRY ABOUT THE OTHER DAY
1
The Sadness of Mat. Ch.
4
SHIK
YOU THINK THAT'S GONNA KEEP ME FROM STABBING YOU !?
Mr Sidetrms Quest for Love
3
YOU SAY IT'S GOOD ?
WHAT?

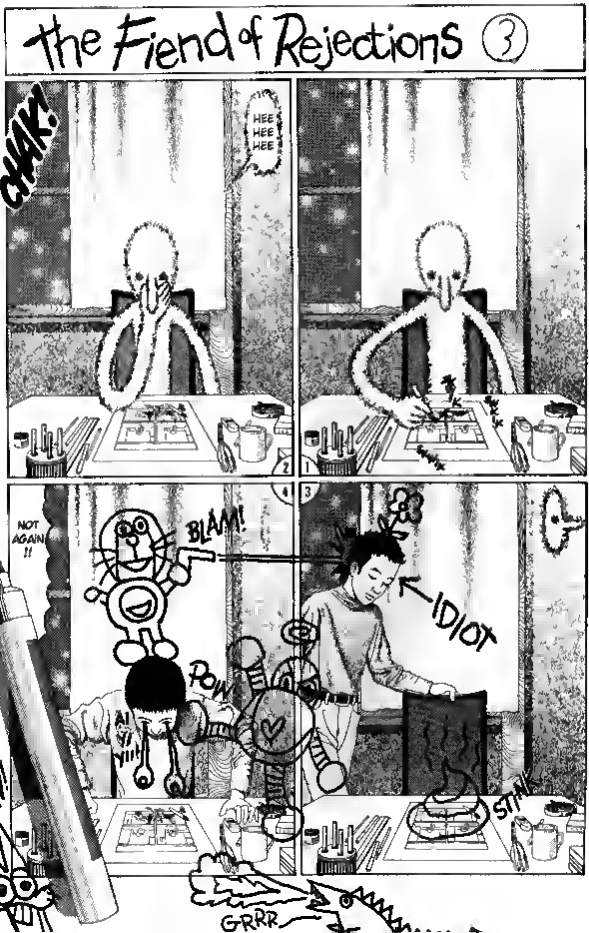
I APOLOGIZE FOR MY BEHAVIOR.


The Fiend of Rejections ②
1
2
3
4
Kooo!
SMASH
CRASH
SMASH

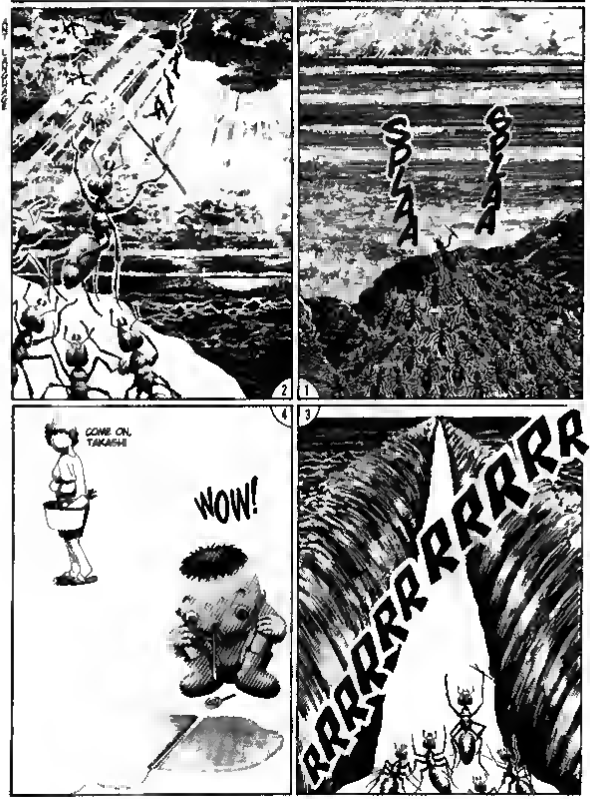

Teddy Bear Takes a Walk
(If you black out the path Teddy Bear walks, WOW!e ZONIC!!)
1
2
3
4
Well, Well.. So what happened?

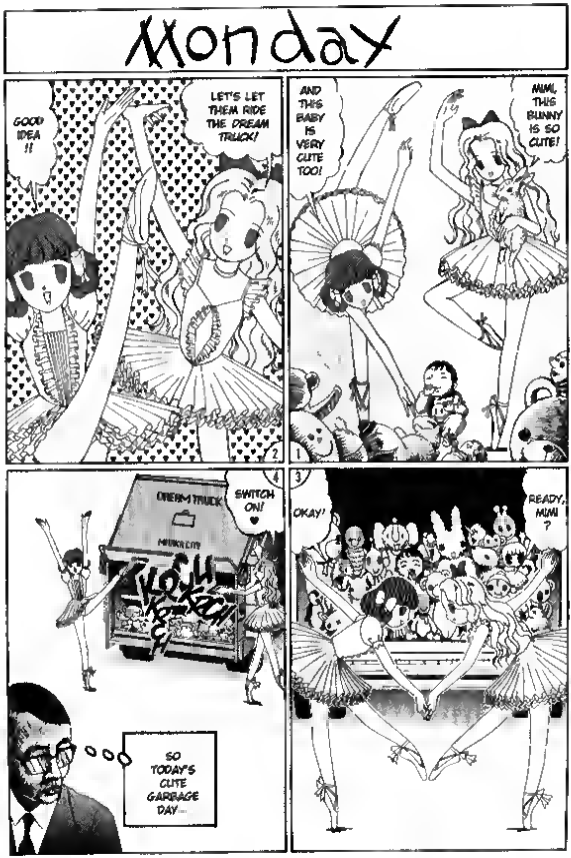

Perspective Salarymen
HA
HA
HA
HA
Hmm? All of a sudden I feel like I'm taller..
KLAKETTA
KLAKETTA
It sucks being short, huh?
How in the world-
hmph
Huh?
KO
TONK


Perspective Salarymen 2
On top of that, you're bald!
tsk tsk
Short people suck, huh?
KLAKETA DAKETTA
HA HA HA HA HA
1
2
oh, no
3
HUH?
Ka TU NK

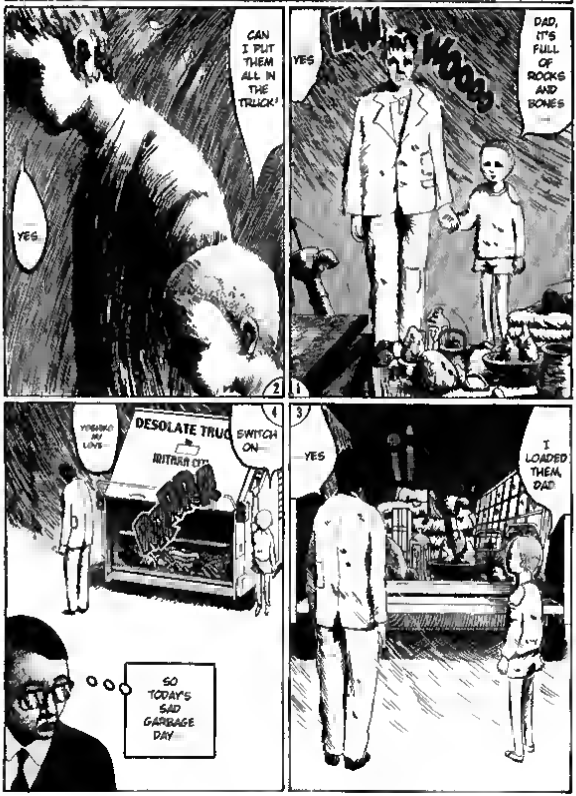

the Fiend of Rejections (3)
CHAK!
HEE HEE HEE
1
2
3
4
NOT AGAIN !!
BLAM!
IDIOT
POW
AI YI!!!
STINK
NEW!
GRRR

Takashi Witnesses the Amazing Ants

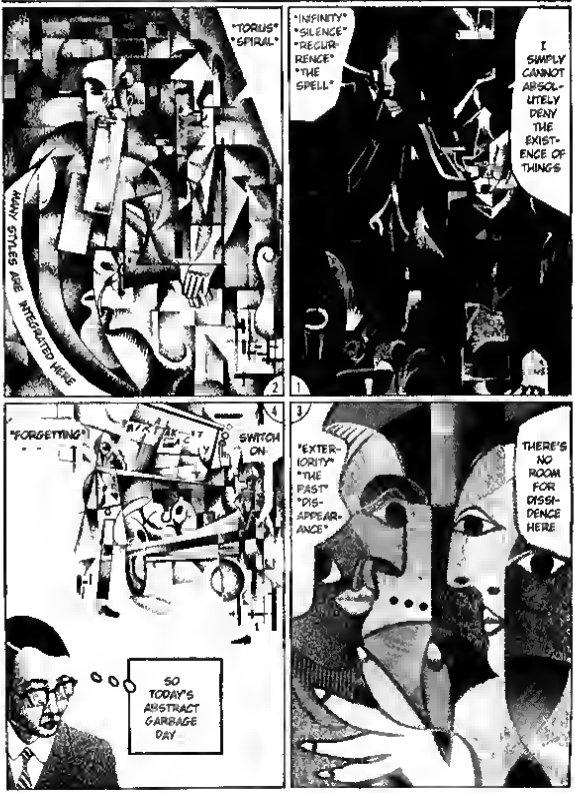



Monday
MUMI, THIS BUNNY IS SO CUTE!
AND THIS BABY IS VERY CUTE TOO!
1
LET'S LET THEM RIDE THE DREAM TRUCK!
GOOD IDEA !!
2
READY, MUMI ?
OKAY!
3
SWITCH ON!
4
DREAM TRUCK
SO TODAY'S CUTE GARBAGE DAY—

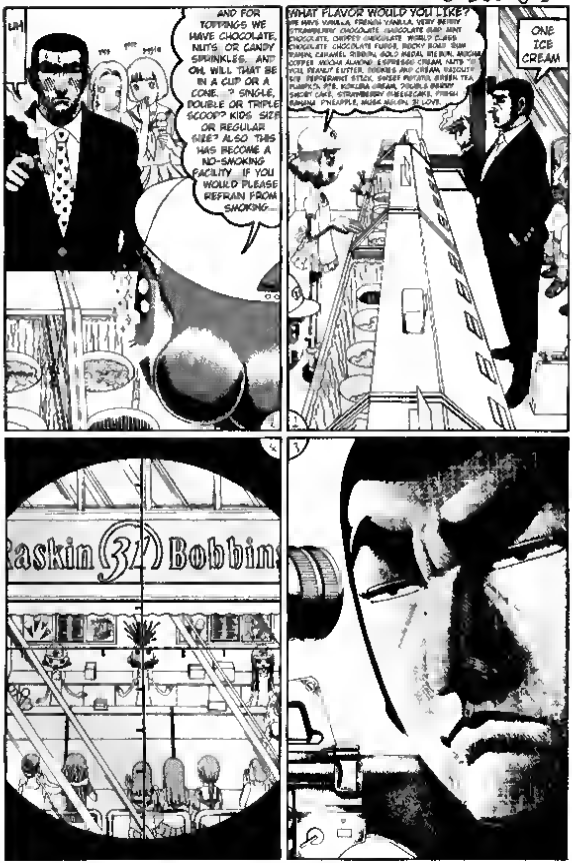
Tuesday


CAN I PUT THEM ALL IN THE TRUCK?
YES
2
YES
WOOOO
DAD, IT'S FULL OF ROCKS AND BONES
1
YESSIR! MY LORD
DESOLATE TRUC
WATTAN CITY
4
SWITCH ON
SO TODAY'S SAD GARBAGE DAY
3
YES
I LOADED THEM, DAD

Wednesday


"TORUS"
"SPIRAL"
MANY STYLES ARE INTEGRATED HERE
"INFINITY"
"SILENCE"
"RECURRENCE"
"THE SPELL"
I SIMPLY CANNOT ABSOLUTELY DENY THE EXISTENCE OF THINGS
"FORGETTING"
SWITCH ON
SO TODAY'S ABSTRACT GARBAGE DAY
"EXTERIORITY"
"THE FAST"
"DISAPPEARANCE"
THERE'S NO ROOM FOR DISSIDENCE HERE

GOLGO 31


AND FOR TOPPINGS WE HAVE CHOCOLATE, NUTS OR CANDY SPRINKLES. ANY- OH, WILL THAT BE IN A CUP OR A CONE...? SINGLE, DOUBLE OR TRIPLE SCOOP? KIDS SIZE OR REGULAR SIZE? ALSO THIS HAS BECOME A NO-SMOKING FACILITY. IF YOU WOULD PLEASE REFRAIN FROM SMOKING...
WHAT FLAVOR WOULD YOU LIKE?
ONE ICE CREAM
askin 31 Bobbins

The Goddess of Rejection

SHI-SHIT?